



## COLUMN ONE

### Barnsley's bonny lasses jeer player's own goal

The bonny lasses of Barnsley are refusing to take criticism lying down. For when the town's adopted footballer, Georgi Hristov, complains that they are all ugly beauties, what do they do? They stage a beauty contest – and invite him to judge it.

The Macedonian international striker must be rueing the day he made public his feelings about Barnsley babes. "I'm finding it difficult to find a girlfriend in Barnsley, or indeed settle into a decent way of life," he told a magazine in Belgrade. "The local girls are far uglier than the ones back in Belgrade or Skopje, the capital of Macedonia, where I come from. Our women are much prettier. Besides they don't drink as much beer as the Barnsley girls which is something I don't like at all."

Now two local barmaids, Donna Carman and Tina Powers, are striking back. They are planning a beauty contest at the town's O'Neill's Bar where they work and they want the 21-year-old Hristov to select a winner. "Barnsley women are very outgoing," said Ms Carman, 32. "There are plenty of good looking ones coming in here. They go out once or twice a week to enjoy themselves and forget about the woes of the week."

Mrs Powers, 30, could not understand what the player, who was signed from Partizan Belgrade for £1.5m in the summer, was talking about. "He can't find a girlfriend. Is he kidding – in Barnsley?"

If Hristov has been finding life hard on the field – the Tykes are currently bottom of the Premiership – and off, things are now taking a turn for the even worse. His interview has become one of the biggest talking points since two years ago a book called *Top Towns* singled out Barnsley, in South Yorkshire, as the worst place to live in Britain.

John Dennis, chairman of Barnsley FC, yesterday

moved quickly to limit the damage caused by his player. "Just after Georgi had arrived in Barnsley six months ago he had an interview with a freelance reporter from over there [Yugoslavia] in which it was asked if he was happy in England," he said. "He said at the time he missed all his friends, family and girlfriend. It seems a journalist somewhere has seen this old article and exaggerated it beyond all recognition."

But the Barnsley women won't be easily persuaded. They believe Hristov has scored an own-goal and they are not going to let him off lightly. Melanie Dixon, 30, said the problem lay with him, not them. "I think it is a disgusting thing to say and he wants to get a life. I would tell him to get himself a life if I saw him. There must be something wrong with him if he is pulling people down."

Sarah Scholay, 17, said she would love to get her hands on Hristov. "It is not on. There are pretty women in Barnsley."

"He is sad, he wants to get a life. I would give him a good slap. There are some ugly women but it is not right to be saying it."

Mr Dennis insisted that Hristov has now settled into life in Barnsley. So, he's got a life. Now all he needs is a girlfriend.

— Clare Gower

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## PEOPLE



Crowning glory: Harrods chairman Mohamed Al Fayed wearing a 136-carat Koji diamond coronet – reduced from £250,000 to £87,500 – at the store's sale yesterday. Photograph: Andrew Buurman

### Lady in the Lake man tells of charge ordeal

Gordon Park, the husband of the Lady in the Lake, spoke yesterday about the ordeal of being charged with his wife's murder.

Mr Park, 53, was facing trial over the death of his wife, Carol, 21 years ago but the charges have been dropped due to lack of evidence.

Speaking through his lawyer, the retired schoolteacher said he wanted to rebuild his life.

"I would now like to try to put all this, including the events of 21 years ago, behind me and try to return to my everyday life," he said.

"I was most relieved to hear that the Crown Prosecution Service had discontinued the charge against me. The last four months since my arrest have been traumatic for myself and my family."

But Mrs Park's brother, Ivor Price, said the news had been devastating and the allegations of his sister's numerous extramarital affairs had left him stunned.

"I am disgusted at the way Carol has been portrayed," he said. "She's not someone who is cheap or had a string of lovers. She was a very intelligent and caring woman who picked her friends carefully."

"She did tell me she was having an affair with a man from Middlesbrough but she was seeking comfort from somebody else."

There were problems with the marriage and she told me how unhappy she was. But she was a decent and loving woman and she went back to be with her children. I want justice for Carol and the killer must be found."

Mrs Park disappeared from the family home in Leeces Barrow in 1977. Her body was found by divers in Coniston Water on 21 August last year. Detectives said the inquiry was still being pursued and made a fresh appeal for information to help track her killer.

— Kate Watson-Smyth

### Paul Gascoigne silent on divorce report

Paul Gascoigne refused to comment on reports of impending divorce from his wife, Sheryl, as he left Ibrox Stadium in Glasgow after a training session yesterday.

The England mid-fielder jumped into his car and sped out of the ground to avoid the press. The vehicle roared through traffic lights before disappearing down a side street to shake off photographers.

It was thought Gascoigne may be returning to his chalet at the Cameron House Hotel, beside Loch Lomond, where he has been living since quitting his home in Kilbarchan, Renfrew.

He was quoted in yesterday's *Sun* as saying his estranged wife had served divorce papers on him



Gascoigne: Quick temper

- 17 months after their wedding.

The couple, who have a year-old son, Regan, married in 1996 but three months later Sheryl, 32, who has two other children from a previous marriage, was photographed after being beaten by Gascoigne.

He was quoted in yesterday's *Sun* as saying his estranged wife had served divorce papers on him

### Oasis man to settle down

Liam Gallagher, the Oasis singer, wants to settle down with wife Patsey and have children.

After four years of Oasis mayhem, Liam, 25, told *GQ* magazine that he has tired of the party lifestyle and prefers to stay in.

"Now I've got Pats, I am happiest with her. It makes me grow up," he tells the magazine. "I could go out tomorrow, but it'd just be doing the same things – smothering lines in boggs. That's not for me."

Instead, he wanted to move up his new country house – "it's wicked, man, seven bedrooms, all old English oak". He also plans to buy a dog, "I'm gonna buy an abysian next week and call him Hendrix."

Home life will have to wait, however, as Oasis embark tomorrow on a 17-date tour of North America.

## UPDATE

### CONSUMERISM

#### Youth in a pot remains an illusion

The promise of "youth in a pot" made by anti-ageing face creams is just that – a promise. They are no better than plain moisturisers which sell at a fraction of the cost, according to a *Which?* survey.

The most effective ingredient in 24 face creams, costing from £2 to £50, tested by the consumer magazine turned out to be the main one – water.

Water plumps up the outer layer of skin, masking lines and wrinkles and making the skin look smoother. Anti-ageing creams, costing up to 75 times as much as ordinary moisturisers, contain extra ingredients claimed to "target the needs of ageing and damaged skin" but they left the women who tried them unimpressed and some complained of soreness and irritation.

*Which?* selected 12 anti-ageing creams and 12 ordinary moisturisers and tested each on four women volunteers aged from 40 to 55.

Ten of the 48 women using the anti-ageing creams said it had improved the overall look of their skin but 18 of the 48 testing the ordinary moisturisers said the same thing. Most women noticed no difference. The most expensive cream was Servital Active Tissue Defence by Syence, which costs £51 for 30mls. The testers estimated it was worth around £5.

— Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor

### SOCIETY

#### One in four GPs harassed at work



Almost a quarter of GPs have been sexually harassed by their patients, a survey has shown. One-fifth have felt sexually threatened by patients to the point of fearing for their safety and 7 per cent have been the victims of stalking.

Three of the 1,500 doctors surveyed by the journal *Doctor* said they were so distressed by the advances of sex pest patients that they had resigned. Two had left general practice altogether.

In 3 per cent of cases, it emerged that the harassment was by a colleague.

The survey found the most common forms of harassment were receiving unwelcome attention, explicit letters, inappropriate requests for examinations or visits and unwanted gifts.

Both male and female GPs have been harassed in this way, although women were slightly more at risk, the survey found.

### EDUCATION

#### Men lead women in exam stakes

Men are more likely than women to have been to university or college, according to a Government report. They are also more likely to have A-levels.

There are, however, striking differences between different age groups. While women aged 40-59 are much more likely to have no qualifications compared to their male counterparts, men aged 16-24 are slightly more likely to have no qualifications compared to women the same age.

The Labour Market Trends survey published by the Government, shows that 21 per cent of men of working age have higher education qualifications compared with 19 per cent of women. Around 16 per cent of men and 21 per cent of women have no qualifications.

— Andrew Buncome

### TOURIST RATES

Australia (dollars)	2.36	Italy (lira)	2,880
Austria (schillings)	20.10	Japan (yen)	210.45
Belgium (francs)	59.07	Malta (lira)	0.63
Canada (\$)	2.32	Netherlands (guilders)	3.22
Cyprus (pounds)	0.83	Norway (kroner)	11.74
Denmark (krone)	10.93	Portugal (escudos)	290.22
France (francs)	9.57	Spain (pesetas)	241.27
Germany (marks)	2.87	Sweden (kroner)	12.62
Greece (drachmai)	456.07	Switzerland (francs)	2.31
Hong Kong (\$)	12.52	Turkey (lira)	313,651
Ireland (pounds)	1.09	USA (\$)	1.63

Source: Thomas Cook

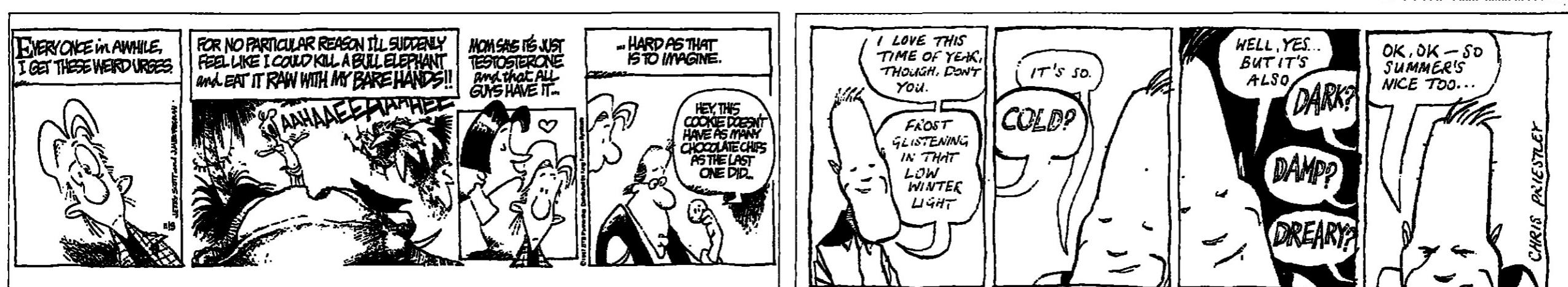
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Pulling power: The Barnsley barnmaids organising a beauty contest for Hristov

## ZITS

by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman 7.30 FOR 8



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really like**

## Human cloning pioneer dismisses ethical doubts

The US scientist who plans to set up the world's first Human Clone Clinic said yesterday he could see nothing wrong with producing endless identical human beings. Jeremy Lorraine, Health Editor, asks if he is likely to succeed.

Richard Seed, the physicist who wants to offer infertile couples the chance to clone an identical twin of themselves, said

yesterday he regretted not having contacted Mother Teresa before she died last summer for a sample of her blood from which to produce a replica saint.

The Chicago scientist, who is little known in reproductive circles but has done fertility research in the past, claimed to have four couples willing to go ahead with the experiments.

"Any new subject creates fear. It doesn't matter whether it's reproduction or automobiles," he said on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme.

The procedure would involve taking an unfertilised egg

from the woman's ovary, removing its nucleus containing the DNA and replacing it with the nucleus of an adult cell taken from the man or the woman, or a third party. The resulting child would be the identical twin of its "parent", but 30 to 40 years younger.

Mr Seed will need the co-operation of a doctor, to remove the egg and replace the cloned embryo, and a clinic with the right equipment to realise his ambition to set up a chain of 20 cloning clinics around the country.

He claimed to be in negotiation with one clinic, which he

declined to name, but said the doctor involved had agreed to co-operate only with the consent of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine.

Yesterday, a spokesman for the society said human cloning was unacceptable and it had called for a voluntary five-year moratorium while further animal and DNA research was carried out. "We are not ready to do it in human beings and it should not be pursued," he said.

However, in the UK, consultations led by the Human Genetics Advisory Commission are to begin this year into

whether human cloning should be permitted for experimental purposes.

Although human cloning is effectively banned under the 1990 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act, as it is in most European countries, Ruth Deech, chairman of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority argued in a hearing before the Commons Science and Technology Committee last year that possible benefits from human cloning would never be realised if a total prohibition on research were imposed.

She ruled out the production of human beings as "banks" to

provide organs or bone marrow for transplant, or as "consolation" for bereaved parents who wished to reproduce a loved child. However, a possible application that might be acceptable was in the treatment of sufferers from a rare inherited disorder of the mitochondria - the "power-plant" of the cell - which surround the nuclei of cells and which can cause blindness and epilepsy.

By removing the nucleus minus the defective mitochondria - from an embryo created by *in-vitro* fertilisation in the normal way and placing it in a donated egg stripped of its own

nucleus, a cloned baby could be created that would be the genetic offspring of its parents without the disorder. Other potential applications were likely to become evident over the next five years, she said.

A spokesman for the authority said that, in contrast to research of this kind, Mr Seed's reference to Mother Teresa demonstrated the dangers of allowing cloning to develop unfeathered. "Deliberately creating a copy of an existing human being undermines the autonomy of the individual. What sort of life would a baby produced in this way have?"

## Moonstruck again after 25 years – but what's the thrill in a few drops of water?

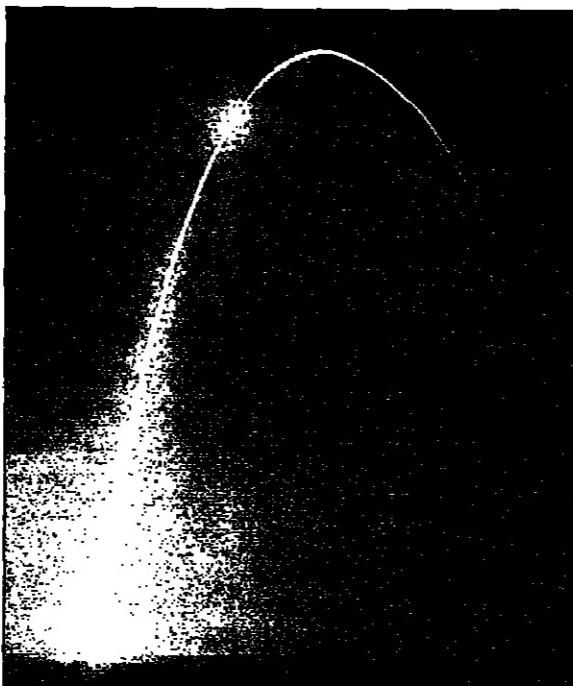
After Apollo 11, whatever happened to the Moonrush? Why don't we have a full-time base on our satellite? And why could the *Lunar Prospector* spacecraft make a crucial difference? Charles Arthur, Science Editor, explains why space buffs are getting excited about the prospect of finding a bit of water.

*Lunar Prospector*, which took off for the Moon early on Wednesday, may not be big; it's only 1.2 metres (4 feet) long and weighs just 295 kilograms (650 pounds). But it could really have a large impact. It could make the Moon the best thing since the Klondike Gold Rush.

Watching the spacecraft take off, Joseph Boyce, a scientist who worked on Nasa's Apollo moon missions, including the last one, in December 1972, was ecstatic. "After 25 years of having not been to the Moon by Nasa, it certainly feels good to be going back," Mr Boyce said. "I couldn't be more excited, more happy, more pleased."

*Prospector* is due to arrive at the Moon on Sunday, after a trip covering 240,000 miles (384,000 kilometres). Two days later, the probe will slip into orbit 60 miles (96 kilometres) above the surface and begin its year-long search for evidence of frozen water, as well as minerals and gases.

If you are over 35, then the excitement generated by the Moonshots 30 years ago meant you expected that by now we would be



An Athena rocket carrying the *Lunar Prospector* probe is launched from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station on Tuesday (left); but an artist's impression (right) from 30 years ago gives an idea of the ambitions scientists had for lunar habitation in 1998



Photograph: Karl Ronstrom/Reuters; Illustration: Julian Baum/Science Photo Library

all over the Moon - taking holidays there, using it as a waystation to head for Mars or the stars, and digging it up (as in *2001: A Space Odyssey*) to discover mysterious signs from extraterrestrial races.

Instead, it's a junkyard for equipment and items left behind by the 12 astronauts who walked on the Moon: landers, buggies, even golf balls. What happened to those dreams?

Although everyone was thrilled by the images of Neil Armstrong bouncing down the ladder from the *Eagle* lander, the news that the *Apollo 11* mission brought back in July 1969 was of a place without water and

without life. The lack of water makes living on the Moon impracticable, because would-be settlers would have to take all their oxygen and liquid requirements along in the launch vehicle. Water, in particular, is so heavy that getting it out of orbit is hugely expensive.

A Moon base would require about two metric tonnes of air and water per person per year.

Sending that to the Moon would cost roughly \$2,500 per kilogram, according to a 1994 study: keeping each person alive would cost roughly \$20 million per year. Though in 1989 President George Bush suggested

setting up a full-time lunar station, the end of the Cold War three years later killed off the finances required for the idea.

But those equations all change if there is water already on the Moon: the cost of setting up the station and running it would be cut at least ten-fold. And some scientists believe the moon's shadowy poles hold as much as 1 billion tons of water ice, a theory bolstered by the military's *Clementine* spacecraft, launched to the Moon in 1994.

With water, lunar settlers would be able to drink and breathe without having to bring their own supplies. The ice could be melted, and oxygen could be extracted from it, by electrolysis, using electricity generated from solar panels.

But why should we want a Moon base? Because it is a terrific spot for launching missions to other planets, or even the stars. Launching something from the Moon takes comparatively little energy, since its gravity is just one-sixth that of Earth.

The raw materials could be found there - the rocks contain plentiful iron, magnesium and titanium, as well as uranium, calcium and aluminium - and the water electrolysed into hydrogen and oxygen could power a rocket. Neil Armstrong reckons that a lunar base would have a lot going for it.

"I'm certain that we'll have such bases in our lifetimes," he said on returning. "Somewhat like the Antarctic stations. There's certainly the problem of the environment and the vacuum, and the high temperature of day and night."

"Still, in some ways it's more hospitable than the Antarctic. There are no storms, no snow, no high winds, no unpredictable weather. As for the gravity - well, the Moon's a very pleasant kind of place to work in. Better than the Earth, I think."



## The year of the smaller phone bill.

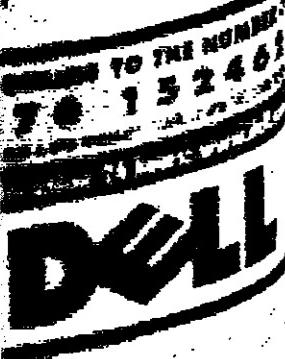
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## Controversy as C4 provides platform for paedophiles

A controversial Channel 4 documentary to be screened tonight will interview named paedophiles about their desires and beliefs. Critics say it is giving a dangerous platform for child molesters to legitimise their values. Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent, asks whether such a programme should be shown.

"We have got to work towards a society which casts out discrimination, prejudice and bigotry." This is Paul. He is talking about the need for society to stop discriminating against paedophiles. He also says he would love to come out and have an open relationship with a child where they did "the same things as heterosexuals do with each other".

He is one of five paedophiles interviewed for *The Devil Amongst Us*. There is also Gil, 75, who has kept his pac-

dophilic tendencies secret from his wife and children, Rob who communicates with other "boy lovers" via the Internet, Colin, convicted of possessing indecent material after filming young boys, and Peter Hamilton Harvey, who was convicted of indecent assault. All have one chilling thing in common: not one will admit any wrong in their desire for children.

"I don't feel I ever have been a danger to children," says Gil, who claims never to have acted on his desires. "I have been tempted but the very idea of doing something that would traumatise a child physically or psychologically, that's complete anathema to me."

"I could never hurt a child in any way. I would like a loving relationship between myself and a child as near to adult relationship as reasonably possible."

Those who work with sex offenders and their victims say that the documentary gives a "platform for criminals" who are allowed to put forward their views unchallenged. Views such as those of Colin who still cannot "see what all the fuss was

about" over his film which showed three 12-year-old boys urinating, defecating and simulating masturbation. "My role as an adult was to supervise and protect them from paedophiles."

Mike Taylor, of the NSPCC, said of the programme: "It is a chilling account of how men who have no moral scruples and who do not share the values of our society operate in sexually abusing children."

But Dea Birkett, the writer and journalist who presents the film says she made it because she feels that we need to know more about such people in order to deal with them. "I felt we actually needed to confront them to look at them - what they think, what they do - basically to unhook them. There have always been victims but we need to know more about them so there are no more victims."

But Mr Taylor responded: "Who is speaking out for the children in all this? It is very unfortunate that the film does not take the child's perspective into account as well as that of the perpetrator of the abuse."

Paul Cavadino, principal officer for the National Associa-

tion for the Care and Resettlement and Offenders, added that the programme was "giving a platform to criminals to justify their activities that cause life-long damage to children". And he went on: "It's an unbalanced programme - there is no reference to the victims or survivors of paedophiles."

"And from the standpoint of those working with offenders there were only unrepentant paedophiles."

The programme makers argue that they show equally strongly people who have taken action against paedophiles such as Tony Shepherd, who tells of his attempts to get Mr Hamilton Harvey to leave the neighbourhood, including throwing a brick into the car of his 71-year-old father and setting fire to a car that belonged to a friend of the family.

Those actions got him put on probation otherwise Mr Shepherd says, he planned to "take [Hamilton Harvey] away to the area of Wareham forest ... He was going to be taught a lesson, going to be given a very serious warning he was not wanted any more and that it was in his best interests to move [We were going to] nail him to a tree."

"We must meet and confront paedophiles," says Ms Birkett who describes making the documentary as confronting her own worst fears. "We must learn how to deal with them without resorting to the bricks and the petrol bombs so we can protect children without violence or fear."

Ray Wyre, a therapist who has worked for many years with sex offenders, said: "There is a responsibility on us. This programme may reinforce their beliefs. These people believe what they do is not wrong, they believe society is wrong. Other people watching could have their belief system reinforced."

Asked last night to comment, Peter Grimesdale, commissioning editor for religion at Channel 4 said: "At the very least the programme informs the debate by acknowledging, unpalatable as the truth might be, that paedophiles do exist and they live amongst us."



Dea Birkett: 'I felt we actually needed to confront them ... basically to unhook them'

Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

## Council condemned in child abuse inquiry

Incompetence not corruption allowed a social worker to put children at risk of abuse for more than a decade. An independent inquiry said a "climate of fear" allowed Mark Trotter, who died of an Aids-related illness, to carry on working with children in care. Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent reports.

Trotter was dealt with amounted to "impropriety" rather than corruption. "I criticised the failure to suspend [Trotter], not because of ... influence by councillors but by the fact that he had quite an influential position in the trade union in a council where trade unions have a lot of power," Mr Barratt said.

Trotter, who had worked for Hackney Council since 1981, was about to be arrested over allegations of sexual abuse when he died of an Aids-related illness in 1995. Four complaints of sexual abuse of children in Hackney and Liverpool had been made against him over the years.

The independent inquiry was set up by the council in 1996 after serious concerns about the activities and management of Trotter, who worked for the authority from 1981 to 1993. Newspaper revelations about the scandal brought the au-

thority under attack for its handling of the affair and allegations of a cover up.

It was claimed that Trotter, who was openly gay, had strong links with the then-ruling Labour group and stayed in his job despite being suspected of child abuse.

A separate investigation by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, also commissioned by Hackney Council, concluded last year that Trotter had abused at least six children and teenagers in his care.

Mr Barratt, a former director of Cambridgeshire social services, said that there was no evidence of a cover-up: "My conclusion is that inadequacy in dealing with the Trotter affair are best explained by reference to overall organisational incompetence rather than to corruption political conspiracies."

But he was "highly critical" of the way Hackney conduct-

ed its internal inquiry and said that there was a "poor quality" workforce, "mishandled" and "uncontrolled power exercised ... in the managerial chaos of the 1980s".

The atmosphere at Hackney, where defamatory rumour was used as a "standard political weapon" and was combined with organisational incompetence meant that it was not difficult for people to believe in favouritism and undue influence.

The report calls on the council to review its childcare policy, including improving record-keeping for children, which it describes as appalling. It also recommends a multi-agency approach to looking after those in care.

Mr Barratt called for national guidelines to help prevent child abuse rather than leaving it to individual police forces and social services. "The Government should be looking

at the results of a number of inquiries. Is it right to be leaving it to some ad hoc inquiries? ... There is a possibility, almost more a probability, that widespread abuse did occur in residential care in the 1980s which may need looking at more thoroughly with common standards of co-operation rather than leaving it to individual police forces and individual social services."

John McCafferty, Labour group leader on Hackney Council, where no party has overall control, said: "I am pleased the independent report has concluded there was no cover up. Hackney Labour was wrongly accused. This accusation has been completely rebutted by this independent inquiry." But the Liberal Democrats said that while the report was good in places questions must be answered by the Labour Party about its handling of the affair.

## 'Pleasant young man' who preyed on young

When Mark Trotter was first interviewed in September 1981 as a houseparent for a children's home in Hackney the panel which appointed him were impressed and described him as a "pleasant young man who appeared quickly determined".

But only three months later a young man in Trowbridge House alleged Trotter had "interfered" with him. A month later there was an allegation of indecent assault made by another boy. Trotter was suspended but after a full disciplinary hearing in June 1982 when the case was "not proven" he was returned to duty at Trowbridge House.

Two years later in 1984 Hackney heard that Merseyside Police and Liverpool Social Services - where Trotter

had worked previously - were investigating another incident. In 1987 there was yet another allegation from a young woman in Hackney. The police were informed and investigated. The allegation could not be substantiated.

Little happened then until 1993 when Trotter retired on health grounds, dying in July 1995 aged 54 of an Aids-related illness. Merseyside police had been just about to question him about sexual abuse of five young men in Liverpool.

When Hackney social services were told of this they commissioned a social worker to trace as many young people as possible with whom Trotter had worked. He was meant to report by December. That deadline was missed. The second was also missed and the re-

port - a mere seven pages - was not received until the following July. A year since the council were first alerted, only a fraction of the children had been traced, four of whom had died, one from an Aids-related illness.

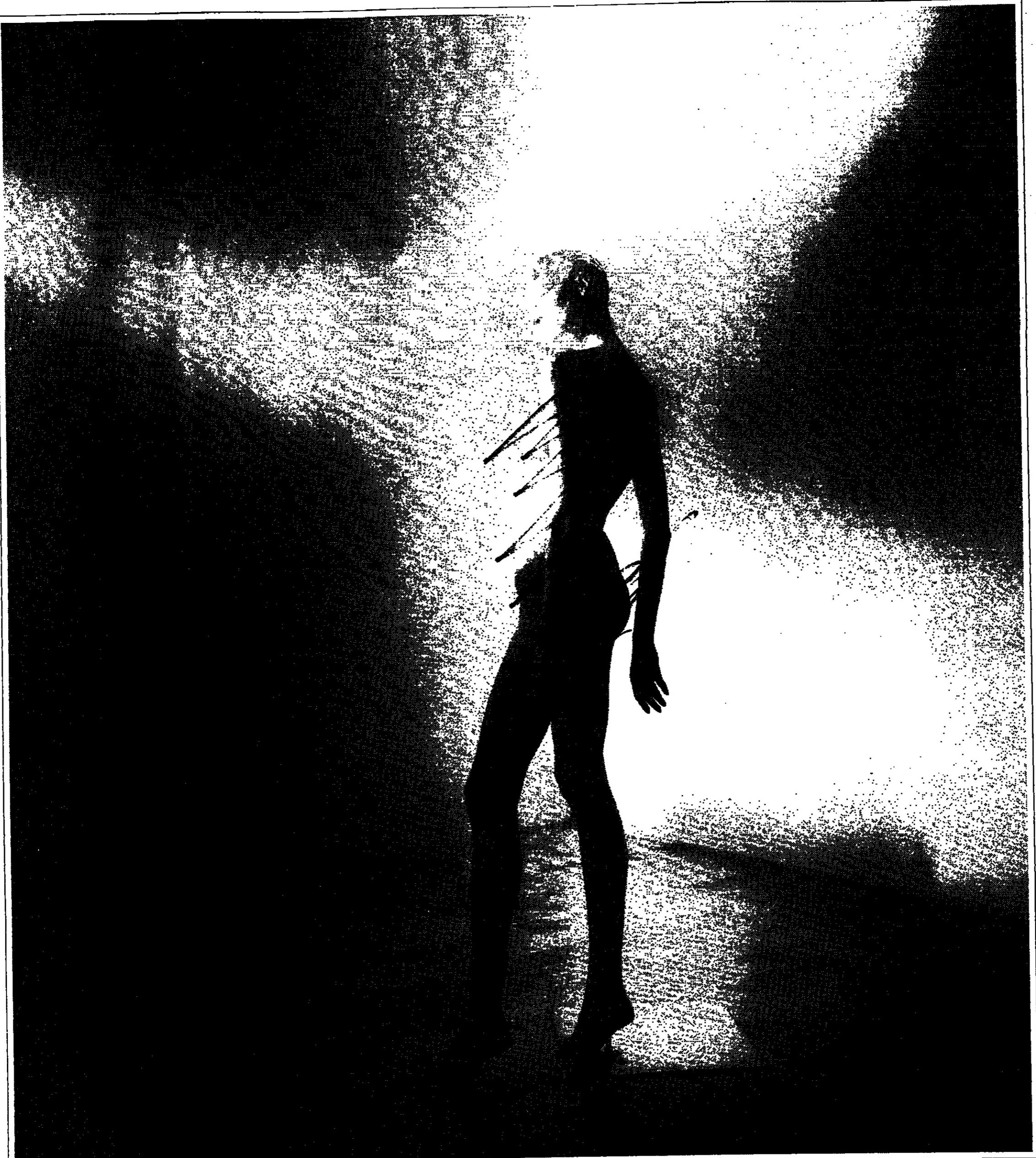
The story finally hit the media. The warfare within the Labour group at Hackney meant that it was perceived as a cover-up because Trotter had been a Labour party activist. And a delay in setting up an investigation split Hackney's ruling Labour group with 17 members walking out amid claims of the cover-up. The Liberal Democrats requisitioned a special council meeting which finally voted at last to set up an independent inquiry.

- Glenda Cooper



Mark Trotter: Died in 1995 from Aids-related illness

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## 7/DRIVING

## Car dealers exposed in price-fixing investigation

**Ever had a problem getting a car dealer to drop the price of new cars? The Consumers' Association has said it claims that some ruthless carmakers keep prices high. Randeep Ramesh, Transport Correspondent, examines the allegations.**

Volvo, the Scandinavian motor manufacturer, was accused yesterday of "price-fixing" under European law by discouraging dealers from offering customers discounts.

An undercover researcher from *Which?* magazine posed as an interested buyer at 12 Volvo dealerships but could only get a "very small" discount on a car worth £16,675.

In fact some dealers allegedly went further telling the researcher that Volvo told them not to offer discounts. According to this month's *Which?* report, one Volvo dealer in Farnham allegedly told the researcher that the car maker would "rap the knuckles" of dealers caught discounting and another in Croydon said it would lose its franchise.

Any attempt to fix prices would breach European competition law. The Consumers' Association say it will present the evidence to the European Commission. Volvo deny the



Cutting up rough: An undercover researcher was told that Volvo instructed dealerships not to offer discounts in a move which flouts EU competition law

claims. A spokeswoman for Volvo said that dealers have a margin of 7 per cent to "play with".

In a statement, the company said it "does not restrict in any way the price at which dealers may sell cars ... it is incorrect to suggest that we have the ability

to either terminate a dealer's agreement or penalise them in any way for discounting".

The report also highlights that all 12 Fiat dealers inside the M25 are owned by the same company and offer the same models at the same prices – which, according to the Con-

sumers' Association, would "discourage competition". Not all the companies contacted refused to give discounts. All four Ford dealers *Which?* visited offered "substantial discounts of up to £1,000".

However, the industry said motor manufacturers did not

have the power to fix the price of cars. "There are guideline prices but there are other considerations which dictate a retail price," said Christopher Macgowan, chief executive of the Retail Motor Industry Federation, the body which represents the country's 4,800 franchised dealerships.

Mr Macgowan added that when cars were in short supply very often customers would find themselves with no discount or even paying a premium. "For example there are some shortages of popular Audi and VW cars and people cannot expect to haggle and get savings."

*Which?* also questioned whether it was possible to import a car into Britain and claimed manufacturers were deliberately putting obstacles in the way of customers prepared to go abroad for a bargain.

When the researcher asked

an Opel (Vauxhall) dealership in Holland for a right-hand drive Corsa, two salesmen said Opel "would not allow them to sell cars to foreigners".

The report claims that when the researcher tried to order an import version of a Nissan Almera from the Continent – saving £4,000 on a car worth £11,000 – the investigator was told it was impossible to order.

According to the Commission last year, Britain joined the ranks of the most expensive places in which to buy a car. The Commission says this is due to price hikes by manufacturers and the rise in sterling's value.

Fifteen of the 75 models considered were most expensive in the UK, including the Opel Corsa and Astra, and the Peugeot 106 and 306. Britain was cheapest for only three models: the BMW 730i and Volvo's 850 and 960.

Buyers will find no bargains in Germany or France which had the highest prices in the EU. Both had 30 of the dearest models. By contrast, the Netherlands and Portugal are the cheapest countries for cars.

## More drivers ignoring drink limit

Nearly 10 per cent of motorists involved in an accident during Christmas were over the drink-drive limit, it was revealed yesterday.

Overall, police in England and Wales gave 15,455 tests after collisions and 1,430 were positive. Nearly 7,000 people were injured in car crashes from 18 December to 2 January. In two police force areas, one out of five drivers breath-tested after car crashes was found to have drunk too much.

Police said comparisons with previous drink-drive figures were impossible because a new system of counting has been introduced this year. Previously details of all breath-tests during the festive period were given, whether or not the drivers stopped were involved in accidents.

Despite the police's attempts to restrict information, the breath-test failure rate of 9 per cent over Christmas is far higher than the 5 per cent rate in in-

jury collisions reported by the Government for the year of 1996.

Avon and Somerset police found that 30 (21 per cent) of the 145 motorists tested had drunk too much. In Wiltshire, 27 out of 138 breath tests (20 per cent) were positive.

North Wales had the third highest rate at 17 per cent and Lancashire was fourth with 16 per cent.

Dave Rogers, of the Royal Society for the Prevention of

Accidents said the failure rate was appalling. "Far too many people are still drinking and driving without any thought for the devastation they can cause."

"We fear that drink-driving is slowly on the increase again. We would like to see police and the courts getting tough with drink drivers so that these totally irresponsible motorists realise that the risk is just not worth taking."

— Jason Bennett  
*Crime Correspondent*

Air pollution will be the Government's main target in its bid to clean up the environment during the UK's presidency of the European Union.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, pledged to help make Europe "greener" with action on climate change, reductions in acid rain, new policies to reduce filthy exhaust fumes from vans and heavy lorries, and more protection for threatened animals, birds and plant life.

Mr Prescott said traffic pol-

icy must be curbed in order to meet the ambitious carbon dioxide reduction levels the Government has set itself. However, he dismissed reports that this would add another £300 to the cost of a car.

Gavin Strang, the minister responsible for transport, said there was no question that the Government wanted better technology and for consumers to be more conscious of green issues when they bought cars.

The airline industry will also

come under pressure from regulators who are concerned with the health of people living near airports caused by harmful NOx gases spewed from aircraft engines.

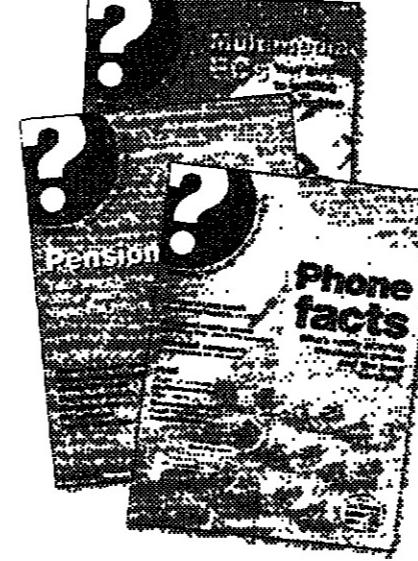
Mr Prescott told reporters at a London news conference: "The presidency is not something remote, happening in Europe. It's about the lives we lead, our jobs, tackling crime and improving the environment."

There was no secret, said Mr Prescott, about the "consider-

able public concern" in Britain and across Europe about poor air quality – but, he added, only Europe-wide measures could make any difference to improving the air we all breathe.

Although the proposals were generally welcomed, some campaigners said more could be done. Lynn Sloman, Assistant Director of Transport 2000, said: "They have said nothing about cutting the mammoth EU funded road-building programme."

## Prescott pledges action on cleaner air

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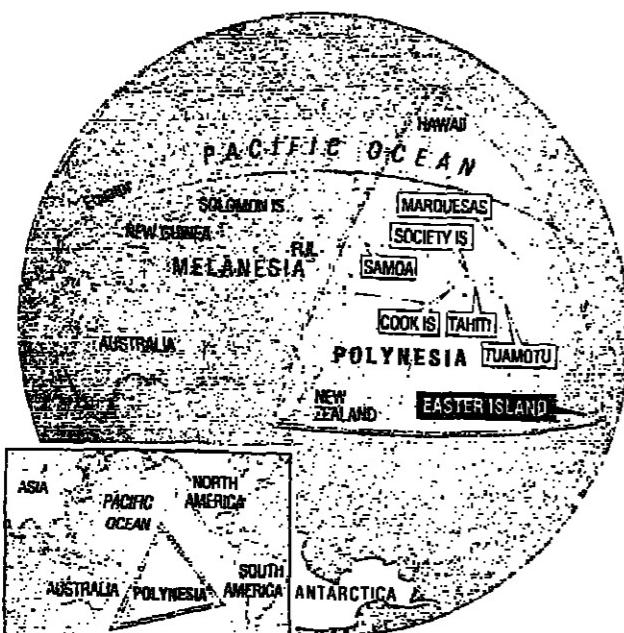
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## DNA shows how Thor Heyerdahl got it wrong

**on schools**  
**new**  
**levels**

Fifty years ago, Thor Heyerdahl and the Kon-Tiki expedition appeared to prove that ancient humans could have sailed west from South America to colonise the Pacific islands. But DNA evidence now shows that his theory was wrong. Charles Arthur, Science Editor, on the molecules that have upset a great adventure.

In *The Voyage of the Kon-Tiki*, the Norwegian archaeologist Thor Heyerdahl famously proved that early humans could have used the trade winds to sail from Peru to Easter Island - and thus be its first settlers. But although the tale of his replica raft and the voyage westward across the Pacific in August 1947 makes a stirring tale, his idea has now been proved to be wrong. Sorry, Thor. DNA analysis of the remains of the original settlers of islands all around the Pacific, including Easter Island, demonstrates that they actually came from South-East Asia.

Dr Erika Hagelberg, of the department of genetics at Cambridge University, has

spent the past eight years studying the mitochondrial DNA - passed down through the maternal line - of Polynesians, who moved into the western Pacific about 1,500 years ago, and the Melanesians, who were the first to migrate there during the Pleistocene era about 60,000 years ago.

"There are two groups of populations which moved into the area, but both ultimately came from Asia," Dr Hagelberg said yesterday. "The Melanesians could have been one of the first migrations of modern humans out of Africa." They appear to have reached New Guinea, where they settled. The Polynesians then followed, and

colonised New Zealand, Hawaii and Easter Island itself.

Determining the origins of populations by analysing mitochondrial DNA is done by first assuming that mutations in the sequence of the DNA arise at a specific rate but differently for different people. So two populations which evolve apart will have dissimilar sequences of mitochondrial DNA. That means you can distinguish where the DNA found in skeletons originated from, by comparing it with that from modern-day populations and also ancient DNA of known origins. And in the case of Easter Island's original settlers, it turns out

that their common ancestor comes from South-East Asia - not South America.

Professor Heyerdahl has counter-claimed that the real first settlers cremated their dead, which would destroy any potential evidence. But Dr Hagelberg disputes this. "I can look at the DNA in the bones. I've examined a couple of hundred skeletons. It just takes patience and attention to detail."

Her work was done in collaboration with teams in Oxford, Holland and Australia and presented yesterday at a seminar at the Natural History Museum, organised by the Natural Environment Research Council, looking at "ancient biomolecules".

but were clearly not designed for flight. It is possible they were used to stop the dinosaur losing body heat, which would suggest they were warm-blooded, unlike lizards which are cold-blooded.

The argument over whether birds developed from dinosaurs has intensified in the past few years. The generally held view is that Archaeopteryx, a dinosaur with wing-like arms which lived about 150 million years

ago, was the precursor of modern birds. But that view has been challenged by a group of scientists who think they evolved in parallel from a common ancestor with dinosaurs. The evidence from Sinosauropityx indicates that feathers evolved from simpler, branched structures that appeared in non-flying dinosaurs, possibly as a means of insulation.

— Charles Arthur



Historical focus: Three girls of the Rapa clan wait on Easter Island for a boat to Haga Roa

Photograph: Bob Sacha/Colorific

## Asteroids' tidal wave threat

The impact of a wayward asteroid on one of the earth's oceans would spell disaster for coastal cities, a US scientist says. Such an impact would trigger massive tidal waves, or "tsunamis", capable of travelling thousands of kilometres and devastating entire coastlines - though Britain, it seems, would be spared the worst effects.

Jack Hills, an astrophysicist at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, used a computer program to make the first detailed simulations of cosmic impacts on our planet's oceans. He presented the results yesterday at the winter meeting of the American Astronomical Society.

Even a comparatively small asteroid, with a diameter of 200m, would "cause a large-scale tsunami on all of the coastal areas on the particular ocean that it hits", Mr Hills said. Such an impact is expected every few thousand years. The resulting ocean waves would be some 30m in height, and would grow even larger as they approached the shore. They would also be unstoppable.

The worst-case scenario Mr Hills investigated was the impact of an object five kilometres across - an event expected once in about 10 million years. The simulation looked at a strike in the north of the Atlantic Ocean. The model predicted waves powerful enough to swamp the eastern seaboard of the United States right up to the Appalachian Mountains.

Though parts of Europe would also be devastated by such a mighty splash, a quirk of geography acts in Britain's favour: the ocean floor off south-west England has a very gradual slope. This shallow incline, Mr Hills explains, would reflect some of the tsunami's energy back into the ocean. "The damage in England is much smaller than one would think," he said.

Ireland would fare slightly worse, while France and Portugal would take the brunt of devastation on the eastern side of the Atlantic.

Mr Hills said the first step in dealing with the threat of cosmic collisions is a programme to identify the thousands of objects that could potentially hit our planet, along with better evacuation planning for coastal areas.

— Dan Folk, Washington

## Dinosaurs got feathers to stay warm

In the world of dinosaurs, one argument is increasingly occupying scientists: did birds evolve from lizard-like dinosaurs, or from some other group of animals? Now, two newly discovered specimens from China seem to show dinosaurs which developed primitive feathers for warmth rather than flight, and could be early ancestors of today's birds.

The well-preserved fossil skeletons of the

chicken-sized biped dinosaur Sinosauropityx, which lived about 140 million years ago, were recently found in Liaoning in north-eastern China. The most interesting discovery was the quill-like " integumentary structures" covering both specimens, the science journal *Nature* reports today. Running from the base of the head along the back and tail, they are thought to be the remains of feathers, or feather-like structures,

but were clearly not designed for flight. It is possible they were used to stop the dinosaur losing body heat, which would suggest they were warm-blooded, unlike lizards which are cold-blooded.

The argument over whether birds developed from dinosaurs has intensified in the past few years. The generally held view is that Archaeopteryx, a dinosaur with wing-like arms which lived about 150 million years

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## Tories plan American style primary for London mayor

The official Tory candidate to become Mayor of London is to be selected by a one member one vote ballot of the Tory Party in the South East. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, says Lord Archer is miles ahead in the popularity stakes.

BEST SELLING AUTHOR Jeffrey Archer's chances of becoming the Tory candidate for the mayor of London were enhanced last night by

the confirmation by Conservative Party leaders that a ballot of the party will be held before the names go into the hat.

Lord Archer, who claimed an athletics "blue" at university, has been out of the blocks in front of the rest of the field for months. He has even visited New York in his efforts to prepare himself for assuming the role of the first US-style Mayor of London.

But in spite of his enthusiasm for the job, Lord Archer is not being given a clear field. Other runners limbering up for the "primaries" in London could include Chris

Patten, the last Governor of Hong Kong, Steven Norris, the colourful former transport minister for the capital, and Alan Clark, Chelsea M. diarist, wit, and rank outsider.

The Tory leadership may have their reservations about a Tory beauty parade of such high-profile candidates - they are scarcely shrinking violets, and may relish an unseemly scrap.

There had been clear signals that the Tory hierarchy was reluctant to see Lord Archer become the official candidate because of his high profile and occasionally

maverick attitudes. One senior Tory source said some weeks ago: "Jeffrey has peaked too soon."

But the one-member, one-vote contest means grassroots activists can determine the outcome - and they are same activists who so often applaud Lord Archer to the rafters after his bullish speeches to party conference, and buy his books.

Conservative Central Office and the leadership will stand aside, not even insisting upon nominations before would-be mayors throw their hats in the ring.

Anyone who wishes to stand need only

be a party member to put his or her name forward. The ballot is likely to be restricted to members in the London area where Lord Archer has a flat overlooking the Houses of Parliament.

In addition to having his own fortune to back his campaign, Lord Archer has been starring in an advertisement on television for BT, which has led to some grumbles about unfair competition.

Mr Patten was seen as the preferred candidate for the Tory leadership, having gravitas and celebrity quality after leaving Hong Kong. It is not thought his decision

to sign the pro-European letter to *The Independent* has damaged his long-term chances, following the signal yesterday by William Hague that he still wants him in his team and will tell him so next time they meet in a couple of weeks.

Mr Patten, who has recently bought a house in West London, is telling friends that he is interested in the vacancy, if it is a "real job".

The London referendum, to see whether people want an elected mayor and a separate London authority, takes place on May 7.



In the running: From left, MP and diarist Alan Clark, former transport minister Steven Norris, best-selling author Jeffrey Archer, and the last governor of Hong Kong, Chris Patten

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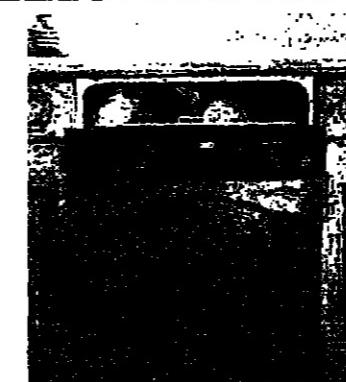
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## Redwood bound for Zog, says Labour

John Redwood lambasted Tony Blair for leaving Britain for Tokyo today after launching Britain's European presidency in London. Colin Brown says Labour accused Mr Redwood of "heading for Planet Zog".

Arch Euro-sceptic John Redwood was attacked by Labour last night of "spinning out of control" after accusing Tony Blair of turning his back on Britain's role in Europe for planning to fly to Japan for a summit today after launching Britain's presidency of the union. John Redwood is so out of touch, he is now spinning out of control on his return to Planet Zog," said a senior Labour party source.

Mr Blair will today be boarding an aircraft for Japan after launching Britain's presidency of the European Union in London with Jacques Santer, the EU President. He will be taking a leading role in an EU-Japan summit in Tokyo with Mr Santer, but his decision to fly out of Britain so soon after his new year break in the Seychelles was attacked by arch Euro-sceptic John Redwood.

"When the Prime Minister decides to launch his presidency from the Seychelles and returns to Britain briefly before going off to Japan, he is sending a message to our European partners he wishes to turn his back on them," Mr Redwood said. Mr Redwood said that Mr Blair and the Cabinet had failed to prepare for the six-month presidency. He said they should have spent more time preparing Britain's agenda to keep EU taxes low, markets flexible and protect small firms from red tape.

Denying that he was being trivial, Mr Redwood said he wanted Britain to use its presidency to police the legality of countries planning to go ahead with a single currency in 1999 without meeting the requirements in the Maastricht treaty.

He also gave his strong backing to the stand by the Conservative leader, William Hague, against a single currency. Meanwhile, senior Tory sources said Chris Patten could still return to Mr Hague's team, in spite of signing the letter to *The Independent* challenging his leadership on the single currency.

"Chris knows that in politics nothing matters. People have short memories," said a former minister. Mr Hague yesterday made it clear he would be seeing Mr Patten in the next few weeks to invite him back, providing he toes the Shadow Cabinet line ruling out a single

THE INDEPENDENT

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Feast side o

lungs sessions by bands including Pink Floyd and the Who are being unearthed in the Rolling Stones tapes. David Lester, Arts News Editor, visits the archives and listens to the music.

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DAILY P  
Men Aware

## Feast from the dark side of Pink Floyd

Vintage sessions by bands including Pink Floyd and the Who are being unearthed by the BBC following the interest in the Rolling Stones tapes. David Lister, Arts News Editor, visits the archives and listens to the music.

For any rock music fan the basement containing the BBC radio archives is a treasury. Shelf upon shelf of tapes contain vintage performances from the last 30 years.

Not before time, the BBC are drawing up plans to release some of these sessions, both concert and studio performances, by the world's most famous groups.

This follows the success of *The Beatles: Live at the BBC*, which made the corporation £m. *The Led Zeppelin BBC Sessions* has sold 1 million copies and aroused huge interest in the United States, and the compiling of Sixties sessions by the Rolling Stones, exclusively reviewed yesterday in *The Independent*.

Those sessions are likely to be released this year. But with the BBC realising that the archive recordings, all of studio quality, can attract massive sales, the Stones are almost certain to be followed by other big names.

John Willan, head of music at BBC Worldwide, who is overseeing the project, said: "Gradually the record companies and artists are discovering that there is a certain cachet about BBC sessions."

I visited the basement containing the BBC archives this week and saw shelf upon shelf

of tapes containing sessions from names such as Pink Floyd, the Who, Jimi Hendrix, Queen, Elton John, Genesis, Cream, and – presumably spelled by a BBC employee who was not a music fan – a group called the "Beetles".

I listened to Pink Floyd recordings from 1971 that sent a shiver down the spine: three completely different and mesmerising versions of their classic track "Echoes", and an alternative and richer version of their 1970 album *Atom Heart Mother*.

A compilation of Pink Floyd BBC sessions possibly holds the most exciting potential. The band was at its peak, just before the release of *Dark Side Of The Moon*, its biggest selling album, and used the sessions for a feast of improvisation.

These alternate takes and the chance to own hitherto unreleased tracks are factors that will encourage fans to buy BBC sessions by groups such as Pink Floyd. Another factor is the different perspective youthful performances offer on well-established international acts.

For example, I shall not easily forget hearing a 1964 session by the Rolling Stones this week, a soulful rendering of their still underrated tune "You'd Better Move On" with Keith Richards in the background crooning doo-wah-doo-wah into the microphone, surely the only time in his career he has so nearly risked losing all his street cred.

Occasionally, the BBC tapes offer endearing moments of the primitive in performance techniques. Bernie Andrews, the producer on *Saturday Club*, had to buy a builder's board so that he and the programme's host Brian Matthew could stamp on it as backing for the Dave Clark Five thumping out

their song "Bits And Pieces". All that is stopping BBC Worldwide from reaping the rewards of the corporation's archives is the need to get agreement in from the relevant band and its record company. Some groups, such as Pink Floyd, are still active and may have plans to release new work. But it is unlikely that any potential objections would survive the bands listening again to the quality of the work that they will not have heard for two decades or more.

Leslie Golding, business development manager at BBC Worldwide Music, has been scouring the archives for both rock and classical sessions, as classical sessions are also being released. He describes some of the rock sessions as "astonishing" and almost all of recording studio quality.



Vintage sessions by Pink Floyd (above) and the Who have been unearthed in the BBC Archives

Photograph: London Features International

## BBC's cheapest ever comedy

With jaw-dropping candour the producer of an experimental new BBC comedy series has admitted that the "potential for the show to be terrible is great."

He was talking about *Comedy Nation*, a weird programme shot on hand-held video that is a cross between BBC 2's public access slot *Video Nation* and a traditional sketch show. If it is terrible it will be fortunate because it is likely to be the cheapest comedy show ever broadcast by the BBC.

*Comedy Nation* will air at midnight on Friday for half an hour for 13 weeks. It cost just £29,000 per episode to produce, compared with more than £200,000 per episode for shows like *The Fast Show*.

"In exchange for having no money the executives have said we can have carte blanche," says co-producer Phil Clarke. "We don't have to go upstairs and ask permission for anything. At that time of night we can be rude

if we want and we can get things on TV that wouldn't normally make it."

The writers and performers of the show come from all parts of the comedy world. The only criteria being they have do something different and they have to work for the Equity minimum.

There will be 30 sketches per show crammed into the half hour with as many writers and performers contributing as possible. "People will look at them and wonder what the hell we are doing. Some of it is very odd," Mr Clarke said.

The idea behind the show is for the BBC to trawl the massive reservoir of comedy writing talent in Britain to see what new stars it can come up with. "There is every reason why it could be very good, given its budget," said Mr Clarke. "But the potential to be terrible is great. But unless it was this cheap we wouldn't get to do it."

— Paul McCann  
Media Correspondent

## DAILY POEM

### Taken Aways

By Jamie McKendrick

I fall into every trap  
they set for me –  
mantrap, mousetrap, birdlime.

Every time  
I take the bait –  
the worm, the cheese, whatever.

I pluck the wire  
that shifts the lever  
that springs the teeth.

Then, in the calm before death,  
I flounce myself  
I'd seen it all a mile off.

I even manage a small laugh.

Our Daily Poems until Monday 19 January (when the winner will be announced) come from the 10 volumes shortlisted for the 1997 TS Eliot Prize, presented by the Poetry Book Society. All the authors will take part in a reading on Sunday 18 January at 7.30pm in the Almeida Theatre, London N1 (box office: 0171-359 4404). This poem comes from *The Marble Fly* (OUR £6.99). © Jamie McKendrick.

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## Afrikaners champion Botha's cause of silence

**Former South African president, P W Botha, is to be prosecuted for defying a subpoena to appear before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.** Mary Braid reports from Johannesburg

Prosecutors announced yesterday that Mr Botha, 82, must appear in court later this month for failing to attend a hearing of the TRC, the body set up to expose the atrocities of the apartheid era. Mr Botha has condemned the TRC as a "circus" and a "witch-hunt" against Afrikaners.

TRC chairman Archbishop Desmond Tutu has bent over backwards in recent months to avoid the martyrdom of Mr

Botha, who, despite his recent engagement to a woman half his age, is reported by his lawyers to be in ill health. But all attempts to get the former president to cooperate with the TRC have failed.

There are fears Mr Botha may become a focus for white discontent with the new political dispensation. Mr Botha has refused to testify on the work of the state security council which he chaired in the late 1980s and

which imposed a brutal state of emergency in which thousands of blacks died in clashes with the security forces.

The commission also wants to question Mr Botha about other apartheid-era abuses including border raids into neighbouring countries, the state's chemical warfare programme and the murder of black activists.

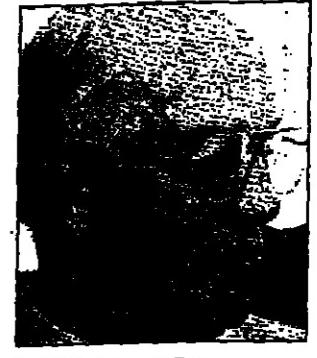
Frank Khan, attorney general of the Western Cape, said

yesterday that the decision to prosecute Mr Botha, who faces a substantial fine or two years in prison, had not been easy, given his age and health. But he said that the law, as well as the public interest, demanded a prosecution.

Yesterday Tim du Plessis, assistant editor of the liberal Afrikaner *Beeld* newspaper, said that the TRC had no choice but to press charges, particularly after its nine-day public hear-

ing into murder allegations against Winnie Madikizela-Mandela. The commission had to maintain a political balance. Mr du Plessis said many Afrikaners did regard the TRC as a witch-hunt but it remained to be seen how much support Mr Botha would get. Mr Botha became estranged from the National Party after he was ousted from power by F W de Klerk, the country's last white president. Mr Botha believes Mr de

Klerk, who ended apartheid and began the inevitable journey to black majority rule, sold out the Afrikaner. Yesterday, the NP response was measured. A spokesman said that Mr Kahn had no choice but to prosecute but added that the TRC should not have forced the issue. The far-right-wing Conservative party said it would support Mr Botha and that Mr Kahn's decision was designed to humiliate the Afrikaner nation.



P W Botha: Defiant

## Zimbabwe land plan attacked

Britain said yesterday that it could not support a programme by President Robert Mugabe's government to seize some 1,500 white-owned farms and warned that the takeovers would harm Zimbabwe's international credibility.

The Foreign Office minister Tony Lloyd said the programme failed to meet conditions that would allow Britain to contribute aid towards the resettlement of landless blacks on seized properties. He said Britain was also dismayed that some land already acquired by the state for resettlement lay idle long after it was vacated by owners.

Mr Lloyd said that Britain viewed seizures scheduled to start this year as breaching ownership rights, and they were unlikely to benefit the poor and were not being carried out transparently. He said one aim of his two-day visit was to show "there's no ambiguity in Britain's position" on land seizures.

Last November, Mr Mugabe's government released a list of mostly white-owned farms targeted for handover to landless peasants. It gave farmers a month to lodge appeals. Mr Mugabe said then that Britain, the colonial power before independence in 1980, should be the one to compensate "its children". But Mr Lloyd said yesterday: "Britain has no direct obligation in this area."

Farming leaders have predicted a 40 per cent drop in agricultural production if the takeovers begin after the harvesting ends in August. The government has said it will pay only for buildings and improvements on farms, not the land, arguing land was seized from peasants by white settlers.

About 4,000 white farmers own one-third of Zimbabwe's land, with 8 million peasants living on another third.

— AP, Harare



Mystery deaths: Fishing investigators measuring one of more than 140 dolphins' bodies found on Venezuela's La Tortuga Island in the Caribbean. Navy officials said the cause of death was not known, but could be mass suicide, being stranded on the beach after chasing tuna or seaweed poisoning.

Photograph: Reuters

## Netanyahu under pressure to decide on withdrawal

**The US peace envoy, Dennis Ross, meets Israeli and Palestinian leaders this week. At issue is how much pressure he will put on Benjamin Netanyahu over Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.** Patrick Cockburn in Jerusalem reports on how American demands are threatening to tear Israel's ruling coalition apart.

Dennis Ross, the American peace envoy, is not a man with a reputation for putting pressure on Israel. In the past Yasser Arafat and other Palestinian leaders have hinted publicly that they regard him as little more than an Israeli agent.

But his present visit is critical for the survival of the Israeli government. Mr Netanyahu, who

is the Prime Minister, who sees President Bill Clinton in Washington on 20 January, cannot put off a decision on how far Israel is going to withdraw on the West Bank much longer. If he withdraws from at least 10 per cent of the West Bank — as he has promised — then the far-right in the Knesset (parliament) will vote against him. If he does not, then he will lose the support of the centre right, such as the Third Way party.

Mr Netanyahu has succeeded in playing for time before. But Israeli political commentators believe that his administration will have difficulty in surviving for the rest of the year. The resignation of David Levy, the foreign minister, at the weekend emphasised that the government is in a permanent state of crisis.

Mr Ross has already held talks with Mr Netanyahu who presides over a cabinet increasingly dominated by Ariel Sharon, the Infrastructure Minister, who advocates a minimal withdrawal.

The last time peace talks showed any results was when Israel withdrew from most of the West Bank city of Hebron a year ago. With the departure of Mr Levy, the only senior cabinet minister favouring a significant withdrawal is Yitzhak Mordechai, the Defence Minister, but he is increasingly isolated.

## Military manoeuvres anger Arab world

Israeli and Turkish warships together with a United States destroyer conducted naval manoeuvres in the east Mediterranean yesterday, sparking denunciations in the Arab world of the new military alliance between Israel and Turkey.

The 12-hour-long exercise, called "Reliant Mermaid", took place off the Israeli port of Haifa. Five vessels — the Israeli missile boats *Lahav* and *Nitzan*, the Turkish frigates *Yavuz* and *Zafer* and the USS *John Rodgers* — carried out a simulated search-and-rescue exercise looking for survivors of a supposedly sunken fishing vessel.

The operation underlines

the strength of the military link between Israel and Turkey, the two strongest military powers in the Middle East, which has developed since they signed a military agreement in 1996.

Yitzhak Mordechai, the Israeli defence minister, agreed yesterday that there was a security aspect to the manoeuvres, the first of their kind between Israel and Turkey.

"[They] are not against any other country. It's only to be able to coordinate and to have exercises together," he said.

Under the 1996 agreement Israeli aircraft can carry out exercises in Turkish airspace. Israel has also signed contracts worth \$700m (£440m) to up-

grade Turkish airforce F-4 Phantoms and F-5s.

Syria, sandwiched between Turkey and Israel, feels threatened by the new alliance, as do Iran, Iraq and Greece. Turkey's other neighbours, Turkish troops have repeatedly entered northern Iran in pursuit of Kurdish guerrillas.

Egypt believes that its value to the US as a strategic ally is being reduced. An alliance with Turkey may also make it easier for Israel to freeze the Oslo accords with the Palestinians and face a renewed cold war with the Arab world. Only Jordan sent a military contingent to yesterday's exercise.

— Patrick Cockburn

## Another 62 reported dead in Algeria's bloodiest month

Attackers killed 62 civilians and wounded 48 in massacres in Algeria's western province of Relizane, Algerian state-run radio reported yesterday. The province was the scene of previous massacres in which authorities said 78 were killed in one night, though other reports said 400 died. Hundreds of civilians began fleeing the remote mountainous region after a massacre a week ago and the exodus picked up after gunmen attacked two villages. The carnage appeared to confirm the fear of most Algerians that the month of Ramadan has become the bloodiest period for civilian deaths in the country's six-year-old strife.

Reuters, Algiers

## New chapter in drug war

The business editor of the *Miami Herald*, unwrapping two cartons labelled "books", found 53lb of what appeared to be cocaine, and 8oz of suspected heroin. The package, mailed in the Colombian capital, Bogota, was worth \$1m (£600,000). Customs and FBI agents, who had been monitoring the package, confiscated the drugs. They questioned the *Herald* editor but said she was not considered a suspect. The package had been addressed to the business section of the newspaper, with no name.

Phil Davison, Miami

**Moi's 'rigged' poll deplored**

The Kenyan opposition leader Mwai Kibaki, runner-up to President Daniel arap Moi in last week's elections, said his Democratic Party would sit in parliament but continue to reject the results of what he called a rigged election. "We cannot boycott parliament, because that would give Moi a free hand in forming the laws," he told a rally. "We will carry on the fight for the people in parliament." Mr Kibaki's party won 39 seats, coming second to Mr Moi's Kenya African National Union, which won 108.

Reuters, Nairobi

## Russians reclaim Christmas

Russians yesterday celebrated the birth of Christ with church services and a children's festival, reclaiming a holiday suppressed under Communism. "Happiness, prosperity, peace and joy," proclaimed the Orthodox Patriarch, Alexy II, outside Moscow's rebuilt Cathedral of Christ the Saviour. Russians schedule their religious observances according to the old Julian calendar. Christmas was banned by the Bolsheviks and restored after the fall of the Soviet Union.

AP, Moscow

## Jury indecision is lifeline for Oklahoma bomb plotter

The judge in the Oklahoma City bombing trial said yesterday that he would decide the sentence on the convicted conspirator Terry Nichols after the jury in the case could not reach a decision despite two days of deliberations.

Federal judge Richard Matsch said in court that the jury had told him it could not reach a unanimous decision on Nichols' intentions.

The jury convicted Nichols last month of conspiracy and involuntary manslaughter in the April 19, 1995 attack that killed 168 people.

The jury's failure to reach a unanimous decision effectively spared Nichols the death penalty handed to his co-conspirator, Timothy McVeigh, last June. Unlike the jury, Judge Matsch does not have the power to impose a death sentence.

He said he would not set a date for a sentencing hearing until he had heard submissions from both the defence and prosecution lawyers, which he



Nichols: Unlikely to be condemned to death

told them to make by 9 February. Judge Matsch can imprison Nichols for life or choose a shorter sentence.

Jurors, clearly strained by their task — two of them cried in court on Tuesday, including the forewoman — told the judge at the end of the day that they

## No gays please — we're Cayman Islanders

The Caymans are not for gay men. That could be the motto of the popular Caribbean resort islands after they turned away a cruise liner chartered by 900 mostly-American gays. Gay and civil rights groups are outraged.

The Norwegian Cruise Line's "love boat", the *Leeward*, had requested a routine seven-hour stopover in the Caymans on a one-week holiday cruise out of Miami starting at the end of this month.

On hearing that the cruise was an all-gay package, the island's tourism minister, Thomas Jefferson, apparently unswayed by his famous namesake's efforts towards life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, wrote to

the cruise company last month: "careful research and prior experience has led us to conclude that we cannot count on this group to uphold the standards of appropriate behaviour expected of visitors to the Cayman Islands. So we regrettably cannot offer our hospitality."

Alantis Events Inc, of California, which chartered the *Leeward*, said it would fax details of the Caymans' decision to 4,500 travel agents in its database. "I find it astonishing that in 1998 you could elicit such a strong response to 900 well-heeled men who want to stop for seven hours of diving and shopping," said Atlantis president Rich Campbell.

— Phil Davison, Miami

## LA gardeners go on hunger strike over right to make a din

A ban on petrol-powered leaf blowers has provoked a culture clash in a city where lawns are manicured as carefully as hair. Tim Cornwell reports from Los Angeles on how a neighbourhood row has taken on the character of a human rights struggle.

The Latino gardeners who keep Los Angeles green and tidy yesterday vowed to continue their hunger strike outside the City Hall, where a small tent city sprang up last Friday. The issue: a council ban on leaf blowers, enacted at the behest of wealthy home-owners and Hollywood stars.

The sight of a Hispanic man with an engine strapped to his back and a giant nozzle in his hand, propelling leaves along the grass or pavement in a noisy cloud of dirt and smoke, has long been a fixture in the better-off areas of LA. It is a symbol of a city not only addicted to the internal combustion engine, but where immigrants from Latin

America too often appear as second-class citizens, relegated to the jobs of maids, gardeners, and parking attendants.

Exactly how much pollution the leaf blowers add to LA's smog, compared with the engines of its giant cars, has never been calculated. It is the buzz-saw noise that has most infuriated the likes of Peter Graves, the *Mission Impossible* actor, and his wife, Joan. "We're all victims of this machine," he told the council.

The leaf blowers do indeed seem noisy and dirty. But the gardeners say that if they are limited to time-consuming brush or rake, they cannot make enough to live on by clearing lawns or drives on commission, sometimes as many as a dozen a day.

"We have a group of working people, and this is their basic tool that they use every day and we're saying you can't use it," council member Mike Hernandez, who represents the heavily Hispanic east LA, told a packed chamber.

The new law bans the use of petrol-powered leaf blowers within 500 feet of residential areas, at risk of fees and fines of

\$270 (£170) for gardeners and those who hire them. Neighbours can call the police, or make a citizen's arrest. Mayor Richard Riordan, who supports the ban, is expected to sign the measure within 10 days.

A dozen people are now camped outside the City Hall, however, vowing to consume nothing but water and sports drinks. "The situation is really bad for us. We're staying until we have some action," said activist Adrian Alvarez, of Association of Latin American Gardeners.

Environmentalists, spearheaded by Joan Graves and actress Julie Newmar - Catwoman on the *Batman* television show - have campaigned for a dozen years to outlaw the blowers. Other Californian cities, including Beverly Hills, have already banned them. The law was first enacted in mid-1996, but voted through again today, by a 9-6 margin, with amendments that removed a threatened six-month jail term. A more realistic obstacle than the gardeners protest may be a threatened law suit by the machines' manufacturers, who say it is impossible to lower their decibel level.

Actor Peter Graves: "We are all victims of this machine," he says, infuriated by the buzz-saw noise of the leaf blowers. Photograph: Kobal Collection



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## Dead raise shrine to Garcia

With the passing in 1995 of Jerry Garcia, the Grateful Dead reached the end of its weird and wonderful road. But, as David Usborne finds out, Deadheads may soon have a place to go worship. Where? In San Francisco, of course.

It is up to the world's Deadheads to ponder what Jerry Garcia must be thinking. A theme park dedicated to his legacy? Is this the way to memorialise the band that grew from Haight-Ashbury, the seedbed of 1960s flower power?

Deadheads, of course, are the legions of disciples who for three decades ensured that the band that named itself the Grateful Dead remained one of the most popular of concert

draws of the entire rock music industry. And, on balance, they must be pleased with the news out of San Francisco.

Surviving members of the venerable group have announced plans to build a giant entertainment and performance complex in the city centre dedicated to their music and to the late Garcia himself, who died of heart trouble in August 1995 after a long battle with drugs.

If all goes well, the centre, which will be as large as the stadium the band used to perform in, will be built in time for a special opening, with concert, on New Year's Eve 1999. It will be named "Terrapin Station", in honour of one of the group's albums, released in 1977.

The entrance hall of which will resemble a stadium car-park, designed to recapture the atmosphere at the parking lots at Dead concerts, where fans used to gather to trade crafts.

foods and their special brand of wisdom before going inside.

Provisional drawings call for restaurants, shops and possibly even a Grateful Dead hotel and apartment complex. There will also be two theatres, one called the Jerry Garcia Theatre, and another, the Wheel, a multi-media dance hall with holograms of the man himself.

Any comparisons with Mickey Mouse are not welcome, however. "This is not a theme park," group manager Cameron Sears said.

Hopes are high that 1.2 million Deadheads will visit the new shrine every year. Band members have pledged \$3.5m (£2.1m) to construction costs which are expected to reach around \$60m. Of that, \$1.5m will come from sales last year of a CD box-set of a 1990 live performance. Stock will be offered, meanwhile, to other interested investors.

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## New fears at Chernobyl

The continuing Chernobyl nuclear accident has raised new fears over whether increased radiation will trigger a massive and destructive disaster.

Studies suggest that the reactor could still be unstable and could suffer a further explosion.

And a collapse of the reactor building could release radioactive material into the atmosphere.

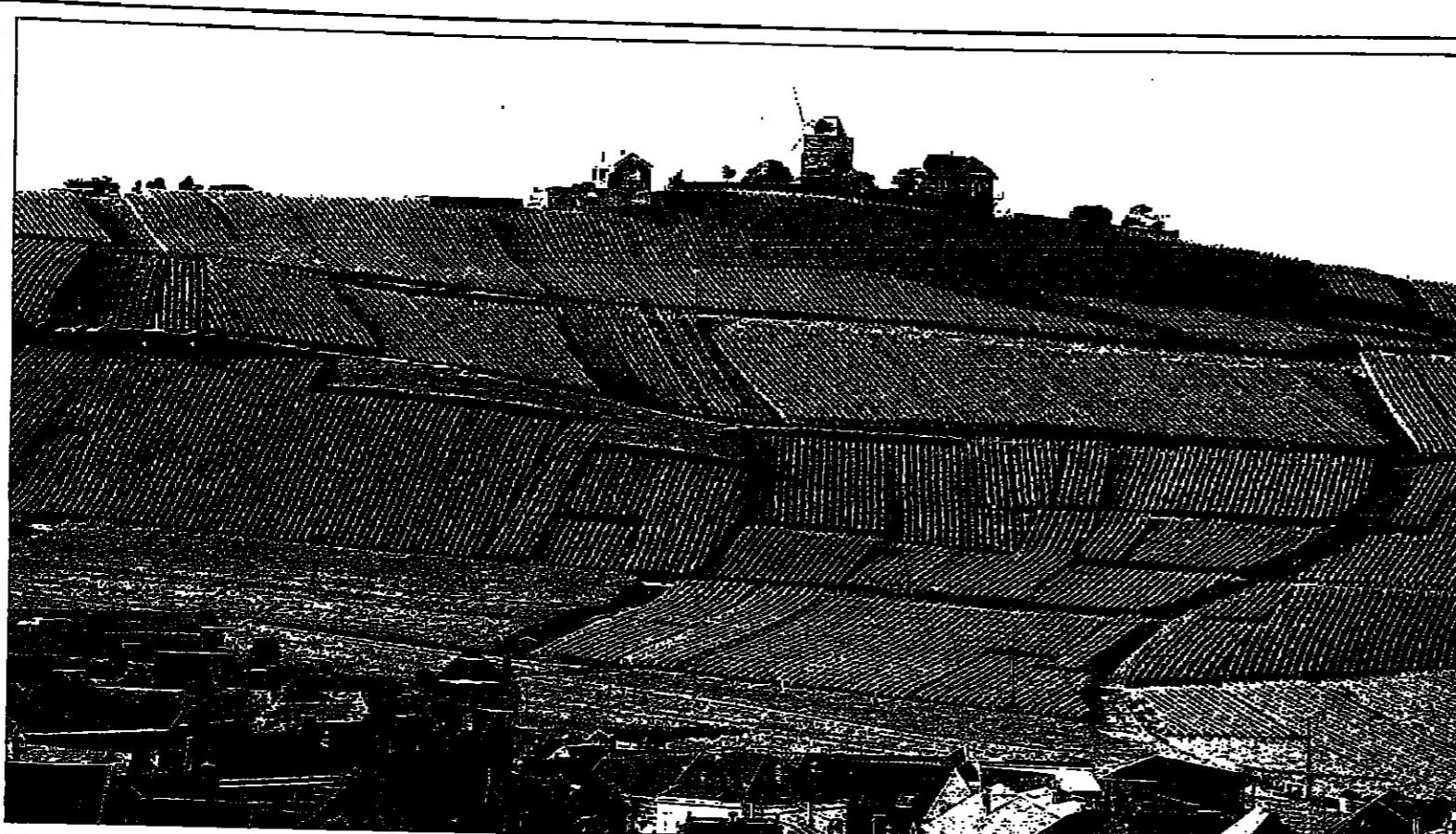
The building is leaning to the side, and the roof is partially collapsed.

That could lead to a massive fire, and that could trigger a chain reaction.

But the most serious concern is that the reactor could still be unstable and could suffer a further explosion.

That could lead to a massive fire, and that could trigger a chain reaction.

## 15/EUROPE



The real thing: Verzenay, Montagne de Reims, in the champagne region of France, which guards the champagne name. Photograph: Patrick Eagar

## French in a fizz over wine from Swiss Champagne

Champagne is a small village in Switzerland (population 700), whose name has been its fortune. It may soon become its misfortune.

Following complaints by French wine producers, the village has been ordered to cease labelling its wine – which is white but non-bubbly – as “wine from Champagne”. The French fraud squad seized 3,000 bottles of the Swiss champagne, actually a kind of Pinot, from French supermarkets over the Christmas period.

The affair threatens to become a source of friction between Switzerland and the European Union, which has taken France’s side in the case.

Villagers point out that their commune has been called Champagne for 1,143 years. Besides, they say, they are not trying to pass off their wine as

“champagne”. The bottles, which do not resemble champagne bottles, are labelled wine from the “commune vaudoise de Champagne” or “wine from the vaudoise bank of lake Neuchatel, Champagne appellation d’origine”.

The French producers, backed by Paris and Brussels, argue that this is a deliberate attempt to cash in on the celebrity of the champagne name. The mayor of Champagne, Albert Banderet, says this is bullying and unfair.

“We have no problem with making it as clear as possible that our produce is Swiss but we will not give up the right to use the name of our commune, which goes back to the year 855.”

After a long wrangle, a deal was reached in 1991 between France and Switzerland, allowing the local biscuit-makers to use the word. But champagne producers have fought battles all around the world to protect the sanctity of the brand-name of their wine.

Swiss officials were forced to concede the point last year during tricky negotiations in Brussels on a range of EU-Swiss farm trade issues. A draft agreement, still not formally ratified by Switzerland, recognises the sole right of the French region to market wine called champagne or to use the word champagne as an “appellation d’origine”.

The deal is being disputed by Swiss politicians. A local MP, Martial Girod, asked: “Must we one day abolish the name of one of our villages just to help negotiations between Switzerland and the EU?”

— John Lichfield, Paris

## Militant dole protests alarm Jospin

**Protests against unemployment are gaining strength in France and alarming the government. John Lichfield in Paris reports on the growing politicisation of an underclass of 3 million.**

The French government sought yesterday, with a bizarre mixture of praise and cash, to head off a rapidly spreading revolt by the long-term unemployed. Peaceful demonstrations in Paris and a score of provincial towns added to the pressure from a rolling programme of sit-ins at dole offices around the country.

Reversing her earlier condemnation of the protests, the employment minister Martine Aubry praised the demonstrators’ “citizenship” and “commitment”. She also promised the government would provide more public cash to help the semi-private agency which administers the dole in France to find extra money for “urgent cases”.

The agency, Unedic, jointly run by employers and unions, was meeting last night to consider the details. The Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, is expected to make a further statement today to try to calm a campaign which threatens the unity of his left-of-centre coalition government.

Up to 5,000 unemployed people and left-wing activists demon-

strated outside the Unedic headquarters in Paris yesterday afternoon and then marched on the economic ministry. Similar demonstrations were held in towns all over France. The protesters, organised by pressure groups for the long-term jobless and the hard-liners of the Communist trade unions movement, are demanding higher dole and an end-of-year bonus of £300.

Although the numbers involved are still relatively small, the movement has been rapidly gathering strength in the last three weeks and enjoys considerable public sympathy.

The Jospin government has been shaken by the protests, with green and Communist ministers supporting the demonstrators and Ms Aubry originally condemning them as “illegal”. Mr Jospin has, by all accounts, persuaded Ms Aubry to take a softer line but also decided to intervene himself.

The most alarming feature of the protests from Mr Jospin’s point of view is that the newly militant unemployed are not demanding work but better benefits.

This runs against his government’s policy of promoting growth by keeping down public spending while tinkering with the length of the working week to try to create more jobs.

Campaign leaders warned last night that they expected concrete promises from Mr Jospin today or they would “continue to extend the movement”.

### New fears at Chernobyl

Feminists claim Mermaid’s head-

The condition of the shell covering Chernobyl’s ruined nuclear reactor worsened over 1997, increasing the chances it will collapse and release radioactive dust, an official said.

Studies last year showed that the roof of the concrete-and-steel shelter is in bad shape and a collapse is becoming “more and more” likely, said Chernobyl deputy director Valentin Kupny.

The beams holding up the roof are in “catastrophic condition”, said Mr Kupny, who is responsible for the sarcophagus that was hastily built over the reactor after the 1986 disaster.

There are 34 metric tons of radioactive dust in the structure, and that amount increases by several tons every year as fuel masses break up.

— AP, Kiev

The beloved statue of the Little Mermaid in Copenhagen was decapitated as a protest against sexism, a previously unknown group said in a statement yesterday.

Danish television stations received a statement purportedly from the Radical Feminist Faction, claiming responsibility for the vandalism of the statue on Tuesday.

“We have sawed off the head of the Little Mermaid, which is a symbol of hostility to women and men’s sexually obsessed dreams in which women only are bodies with no head,” the statement said.

Niels Abildgaard, of the Copenhagen police, said that the authorities had not heard of the group but were taking the claim seriously.

— AP, Copenhagen

### Germany's brief concession

Never again will German soldiers be embarrassed by what is lurking under their trousers. The defence ministry, in a brief statement yesterday, consented to the squaddies’ age-old demand. Henceforth, they may wear boxers, Y-fronts or whatever takes their fancy. It was noticed that the regulation issue white undershirts and pants never left the barracks. “It turned out a lot of soldiers, particularly when they were going out, didn’t find them sexy enough,” a ministry spokesman explained. Conscripts will now have a choice between the regular underwear or DM50 (£17.25) to buy their own.

— Imre Karacs, Bonn



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## Taste for a life less ordinary

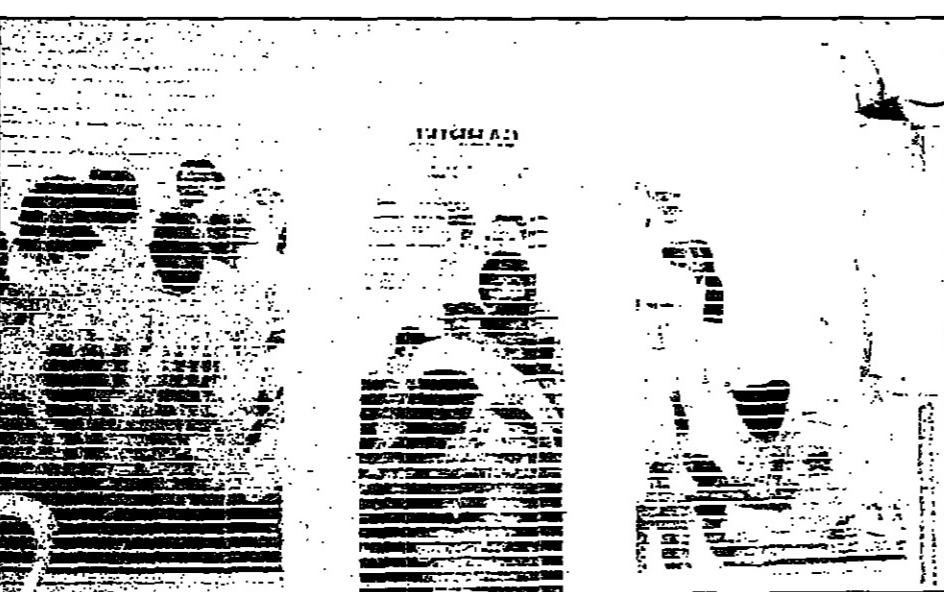
Kave Quinn's sinister and memorable film sets are in stark contrast with the William Morris wallpaper and bright colours she has chosen to decorate her new home. But her subversive vision is still in play, says Nonie Niesewand.

Kave Quinn's new house in north-west London may be in a modest Victorian terrace, but everything Kave Quinn is doing to it looks larger than life. Her talent for using colour and pattern in film-sets including *Trainspotting*, *Shallow Grave* and *A Life Less Ordinary*, has made her one of today's hottest talents in the industry. Hardly surprising, then, that in the home she is decorating with her partner, Aidan, she does everything celluloid-style.

The smaller the room, the bigger the scale of the pattern she chooses for the walls. And the more intense the colour. Humble little spaces mutate under the theatrical hand-blocked archival wallpaper from Sandersons. There are willow fronds on steroids designed by William Morris in the front parlour, big birds, crouching among tulips coloured by Voysey in pink and purple and lemon, with matching woodwork, in their bedroom. Colours in these wall-papers are so intense it takes a week to print each one - they don't come cheap. Labels on the paint tins - Silver Sky, Golden Aspen, Zephyr Green, Shy Violet, Bardot Red, Magnolia Red - only hint at the hallucinogenic effect she is creating.

"I especially like complementary colours. Blue and orange. Pink and green. They zing," Kave Quinn takes colouring in so seriously she visited a mortuary to get the right bedroom wall colour for the Edinburgh flat in the award-winning *Shallow Grave*, in which the life of three young professionals gradually falls apart when find their new flatmate dead in bed soon after his arrival. Until then the interior of the flat could have been an advertisement for Ikea, with pale pine chairs around the trestle tables, big squashy sofas in red and green with contrasting cushions. But the power of colour and light can change a mood, as Quinn well knows. The sickly blue she chose to offset the pallor of death in the dead man's room hit the screen at the exact moment when the film turned nasty. Not just the plot but the colours thicken as they shift from bright sunlight to sinister twilight. Shadows lengthen.

In her own home, Kave Quinn has gone for cosy colours, but I doubt that a band of Merrit Olde Englanders would feel at home there. Before you even get to the archival wall-papers, the hall with pale violet walls, brilliant aquamarine skirting boards and dark green ceramic tiled floor gives the game away. This isn't Arts and Crafts revisited. It glamorises all that earnest worthiness and subverts it, Nineties style. I can't see the Rossetti reciting poetry in Quinn's front room, papered with a wavy mauve and ivory leaf pattern from Morris that reflects in the mirror she found while filming in an abandoned home for the mentally disabled in Surrey. Any more than the pre-Raphaelites would play the spinet under her plastic chandelier. The furniture either follows sinuous shapes upholstered in crimson and lime



Kave Quinn, creator of sets for 'Shallow Grave', 'Trainspotting' and 'A Life Less Ordinary' (above left, top to bottom), demonstrates her latest look - Arts and Crafts, Nineties style

Nicola Kurtz

green by Tricia Guild or the Designers' Guild, or Mormon plain Jane furniture that Quinn picked up on location at Salt Lake City while filming *A Life Less Ordinary*. For that film, she had to design Heaven - and it's all white. Not a touch of magnolia but a white so dazzling and pristine that the camera crew had to wear surgical boots and gloves to film it.

Quinn's skill lies in mixing wildly different aesthetics, drawing ideas from disparate sources and morphing them into design statements. So it's not surprising she dislikes special effects. Rag-rolling, scumbling, stencilling and all that "picked-over" look

of paint effects are abhorrent to her. So that's completely co-ordinated look of Laura Ashley, the whole thing mixed and matched, even to what you wear. Just like the Stepford wives."

Standing in the glacier-blue conservatory that she and Aidan call a glass-topped extension room - "conservatory is too middle class" - she explains how she first discovered wallpapers in an old shop in Paisley, Scotland, while making props for *Trainspotting*. Chippendale Sixties wallpaper in primary colours for the boyhood room where Ewan McGregor's character, Begbie, suffered cold turkey. The difficulty when

styling *Trainspotting* was not to glamourise heroin addiction - or to adopt a documentary style, all filth and degradation, that would revolt viewers. So Quinn tried another angle to make it more interesting. She used Francis Bacon's canvases as an inspiration for the film's intense, day-glo pinks and oranges, as well as for camera angles to get that peculiar sense of isolation. Distance and scale are important to her. She paced out with producer Danny Boyle every set and layed chalk marks. They often exaggerated room dimensions to get long shots.

"Films aren't remembered

for their designs," she says modestly. "But I like to add another dimension, not necessarily beautiful but to make you see things differently. Like that red bedcover in the blue bedroom in *Shallow Grave*, which was so decadent."

Decadence as an ideal dates back to her days as a punk with pink hair, wearing her own designer clothes and strutting her stuff up Tottenham Court Road. She's very gentle and say so it must have been worn like a warrior's costume. Then she went to Central St Martin's College of Art and Design and designed her own textiles and collections a year ahead of

John Galliano. Costume design appealed to her but everything in the mid-Eighties was frozen in period-piece costume dramas and she was too creative for that. So she went to film school, started styling ads and worked as an art director and production director on promos, TV films and features. With producer Andrew MacDonald - whom she met at film school - and Danny Boyle as director, *Shallow Grave*, her first major film, became an international box-office success story.

Now she wants to design textiles again and do some more interior work. She had to turn down *The Full Monty* because the eventuality."

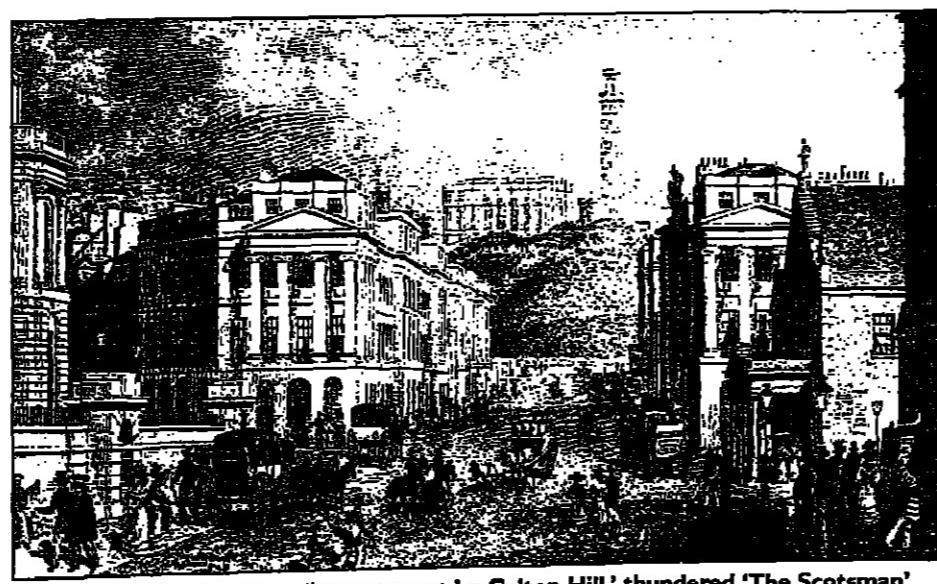
she was on location in the US, but she says it was the best film of last year. Besides film work, she also designed an office for a film production company in an old warehouse in King's Cross and thinks it would be good to do more of that. Then there's her second child, due at the end of January, and the house to move into. "The incredible thing about Quinn, along with her strong sense of colour and space," says Danny Boyle, "is that you know on the day that everything will be absolutely perfect. It doesn't matter what I decide to do at the last minute. She'll have covered the eventuality."

## Dockers vs Miss Jean Brodie, final round

Arguments of the choice of a site for the new Scottish parliament have left precious little time for the public to have their say, writes Nonie Niesewand.

The Scottish Parliament doesn't open until January 1999 but unless the site is chosen soon there won't be a building for the 100 to 129 MSPs to debate in. There still isn't a location, let alone an architect. The Secretary of State for Scotland, Donald Dewar, is expected to announce the location this week with little public discussion of the relative merits of the competing sites. Time may be of the essence, but so is money. In assessing the four short-listed sites, the Scottish Office has realised that it underestimated the size of building required. So the total costs will spiral beyond the budgeted £40m to between £50m and £65m.

In September, after the "yes" vote for Scottish devolution, there were two sites under consideration, Calton Hill and Leith dockside. Leith, or the gateway of Edinburgh as its en-



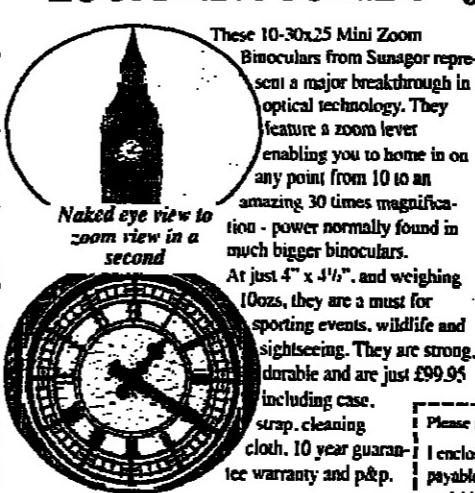
The site for Scotland's parliament must be Calton Hill, thundered 'The Scotsman'

tend the consultation periods over the four sites to make the decision-making more democratic. The President of RIAS George Wren quoted Thomas Jefferson: "I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of Society but the peoples themselves. And if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion."

In the calm between Christ-

mas and New Year, four feasibility studies of each site went on public view for a few days each in Edinburgh and Glasgow as the pros and cons were assessed by four firms of architects. Expressing the hope that as many people as possible will see the exhibition, Donald Dewar jocularly remarked: "It will make a good break from the New Year sales." Let's hope that in the rush they don't end up with the architectural equivalent of a bargain basement.

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# 18/TAKING CONTROL



The hand that rocks the cradle: how can parents be sure that the seemingly well-adjusted girl they interviewed turns out to be safe with their child?

Photograph: John Lawrence

## Nanny on the bottle, parents in the soup

**Charlotte Roberts and her husband had always been happy with their nannies in the past. Then along came Clare. We continue our series on the anxieties of the Nineties with a story of how professionals on top of their careers can lose their grip at home ...**

Downstairs I can hear the cheerful voices of my two youngest with our latest nanny, a jolly, caring, helpful and apparently straightforward Antipodean, who "lives out" and has an active, but not intrusive, social life.

But three months ago I had to sack Clare, our nanny of almost three years – and sucking a long-serving, live-in nanny is inevitably a fraught experience.

Clare was introduced to us by a reputable, London-based nanny agency. Both my husband and I have demanding jobs and we needed an experienced, live-in nanny for our three children, who were then all under four. We had already been employing nannies for three years. I checked Clare's references carefully by phone, and all her recent employers said she was wonderful with children. So she moved into our house and, though painfully shy, settled in quickly. We talked through a written contract for child care duties from 7.30am to 7pm plus baby-sitting two nights a week, and she did this with apparent ease. Never mind that in the first few weeks she had a few drunken nights out at the weekends. That was our business.

We all muddled along quite happily for two years. We even enjoyed the approba-

tion of having happily kept our nanny for so long. But then we rounded into 1997.

Clare had been a nanny for 12 years and was clearly fed up with it – she said that while she was happy looking after our children, she wanted to do more with her life. So, having helped her complete a formal child care qualification, we discussed what other training she might do while working for us, and what career she might move on to. I introduced her to a career counselor and some other contacts – but she went round and round in circles, unable to decide what to do. Then we noticed that far from her planning to move on, we had in fact become the focal point of her life.

Her social life – always scraped together in a rather desperate fashion and focused on getting drunk – had all but disappeared. I found her tipsy and in tears in her room one night, saying she felt unloved and unwanted. "Why do people keep letting me down? why don't they make the effort to go out with me?"

On reflection, I realised that while the local nanny circuit was active for her day, no one seemed to want to socialise with her in their free time.

Then, one Saturday night, she did agree to meet friends in a pub. She came downstairs to wait for her taxi, and was clearly drunk. She swept my youngest child into her arms for a playful cuddle, but then lost her footing and dropped her on the floor. Apart from shock, my daughter suffered no injuries, but we were furious. Clare was mortified, and only the arrival of her taxi brought the incident to an end.

Another night soon after that, we got ready to go out for my husband's birthday and were astonished when Clare appeared downstairs ready to baby-sit. We knew the

### TAKING CONTROL

sober Clare – quiet, shy, and buried in her fringe – and the drunk Clare – verbose, over-familiar, words slurred and clumsy. This was the latter. We went out nevertheless, felt sick throughout the evening and returned early.

The next afternoon I took a deep breath and expressed my concerns. She was mortified, and retreated into the fringe and a frozen silence. Eventually she told me that she was feeling depressed due to some recent bad news, as well as her worries about her future career. Yes, she would cut down the drinking and sort herself out. The next day I found a "So sorry" card, some flowers and, ironically, a bottle of wine.

But my good intentions backfired. All I did with my sympathetic chat was drive the drinking underground. She hid bottles in her room and regularly tipped at night – at weekends, as well as weekdays. When she reeled downstairs from her room, we were never sure whether we would find her just a bit chatty, or incoherent and dropping the kitchen crockery.

When is too much, too much? Her drinking was, as far as we knew, only in the evenings: we drink wine with dinner, a bottle between us quite often. Did we have the right to tell her not to drink at night?

We had endless discussions, testing our views against those of friends and family.

We had no further "serious" baby-sitting incidents, though we often felt uneasy when we went out at night. But then on two consecutive nights she baby-sat for friends

of ours and returned home tipsy. Shortly after this we noticed that she was regularly helping herself to our wine without asking – in what must have been surreptitious slurps, even as we sat next door in the evenings. We moved the wine from direct temptation, but she quickly tracked it down and helped herself. So, with some trepidation, I had to talk to her again.

There was more mortification, more tears, more sleepless nights – mine and hers. During another sympathetic discussion with me she promised reform, but she didn't want to call the counselling services I had tracked down for her. Another "Sorry" card appeared, and some more flowers. We should have acted, but didn't; I was very busy at work, the kids seemed happy – why break it all up?

A few weeks later we went to stay with friends at a remote country location, and Clare came to help. The secretive and guilty night-time drinking came with her. One evening she joined us and our friends for dinner – something of a precedent, as up till then she had always preferred to eat with the children. She appeared downstairs drunk – she was unsteady on her feet, and slurring her words. At dinner she ate like a bird and drank like a fish, and became loud-mouthed and barely coherent. Something in me snapped – that was it.

Two days later, with my children safely away on a trip with a friend, I faced her: "I'm sorry, it's over – you have to go." With a massive intake of breath, she raced out of the house into the garden, where she ran round and round like a madwoman, screaming at the top of her voice, "No, not this! No! No!"

Alone in the house in the middle of nowhere, I discreetly hid the kitchen knives, had my finger at the ready to dial 999 on the mobile phone, and waited for her to calm down and come back in.

But calming down took a further three hours of hyperventilation and crying, endless pleading – "Please, please not this, I'll do anything, anything, but not this" – and pitiful phone calls to friends and family. I finally persuaded her into a taxi in which she was ferried to our London home, where a relative had been installed to ensure she did herself, and our house, no harm.

She moved out after a few days and, though her contract specified four weeks' notice, we gave her 10 weeks' money as a financial cushion. She went home and, to my relief, sought medical advice and counselling. But we are not off the hook yet.

We have had letters, postcards, farewell cards, more "Sorry" cards, a stream of "Missing you so much and love you heaps" cards for the children, plus phone calls.

Also, more scarily, we have had to fend off requests to see the children, to pick them up from school, to ice their birthday cakes – and then, in response to our reluctance, a visit, "Just to say good-bye".

Yes, we should have acted earlier, because we put our children at risk, and we consumed so much energy discussing what, or what not, to do to try to be reasonable. But the dismissal was always going to be painful, and because of that we felt we had to be sure of our ground.

We may sound pathetically indecisive or negligent. To others we may sound unfeeling, judgemental and unkind. Whatever your reaction, just pray you don't find yourself in the same situation – the employment rule book won't help you, either.

*The names in this article have been changed.*

## How to bring the etiquette of the workplace into your home

**Stretched, dual-income couples who depend on 'support staff' at home may need to take their role as employers more seriously, says Roger Trapp.**

Whenever the subject of parents and nannies or other carers comes up, the emphasis is usually on making sure that you pick the right person – rather than ensuring that they get along, having gone through all the effort to find them.

Yet proprietors of nanny agencies, nannies themselves, point to some common irritants. These include parents who insist in the morning that they will be home on time, then habitually call at the end of the afternoon to say that they have been held up; lack of communication; and confusion over tasks and responsibilities.

What is curious about these complaints is that they are just the sort of thing that the par-

ents themselves would find irritating coming from a colleague or a superior in their own place of work. A large part of the problem, it seems, is that work done in the home – whether child care, housekeeping, cleaning or gardening – is somehow not seen as quite the same as that done in a conventional workplace.

We even seem to be embarrassed about employing people in this way. As one observer put it, while people are generally proud to create a job in their business, when it comes to employing somebody at home there is a certain amount of guilt, or at least discomfort.

This is reflected in the fact that people talk about having "help" in the home, as opposed to "employing" somebody.

This can lead to the employers stating around issues such as holidays and overtime rates in a way that they would not dream of doing at the office.

Work Family Directions, a

### RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

- 1 Go through an agency or act on personal recommendation. If using an agency, make sure they remain responsible for the people on their books.
- 2 Check all references and if necessary speak to past employers.
- 3 Establish the ground rules from day one. Don't leave anything unsaid, no matter how small the point may be. Employees should know exactly what they are getting themselves into.
- 4 Try to be around on the first day. This will put your mind at rest. But don't watch your new employee like a hawk, as this will make him/her behave unnaturally.
- 5 Determine whether you are going to be addressed by your first name or more formally, by your title.
- 6 It is important not to be too matey, even though you may like your employee. And don't be too controlling or distant. The 'Upstairs, Downstairs' days are long gone, and your employee is not just a servant. Just treat him/her as a professional, and be open to their ideas or suggestions.
- 7 Try leaving little lists of things that need to be done. That way, your employee will be achieving the objectives you are after.

- And especially for nannies:
- 1 Organise at least two interviews, one for yourself and one for the children, to see whether they establish any immediate bond with your potential employee.
  - 2 Work out who will discipline the children if you are both around. Then always back one another up.
  - 3 Always give your nanny a contract, which states the length of his/her working week. And don't eat into an employee's free time.
  - 4 Become a confidante – albeit at a distance. This will establish a degree of warmth, and show you are interested in your nanny as a person. Always ask how her day went, and whether the children have done anything new.
  - 5 Keep a joint diary with your nanny. This will minimise the risk of clashing with those extra baby-sitting duties.

*Compiled by Nicole Veasey with the help of Kensington Nannies*

out that many people have trouble instigating such formal arrangements in their own homes. After all, it is all very well being businesslike in the office, but in that situation you are usually not working in somebody's home, and certainly not staying there at night.

And although observing how colleagues behave towards each other can provide good or bad examples at work, you rarely get the opportunity to observe such models at home.

One working woman is adamant that it is essential to avoid thinking that you can be friends with the people you employ, either to look after your children or to clean the house. She expects those in the role just to get on with the job. This may be taking things a little far – the experts' advice is to put relationships on a sounder footing, not necessarily to consign them to the deep freeze.

Fruitful relationships between increasingly over-

stretched, dual-career couples and what many term their "support staff" will depend on their bringing a few more of their workmanlike attitudes home with them.

Just as it is increasingly in vogue to talk of employees taking their interests and values to work with them, so should they bring some of what they learn in their jobs to their dealings with those who work for them at home.

As one parent said, it is simply a case of treating nannies and other "helpers" as you would want to be treated yourself.

**Tomorrow:**  
**A better time in bed? It's all in the mind**

**Dilemmas will return next week**

## WHERE CHARLOTTE WENT WRONG

**Gail Aspland Robinson runs Childhood Nannies, an agency based in south London.**

Far too many working mothers feel held to ransom by nannies. They tiptoe around them, worried that if they criticise the nanny she may take it out on the children while they are at work.

But most professional nannies can handle criticism – you just have to say it in the nicest possible way. Good communications are critical; if you let things slide, a minor issue can become a mountain. Aim to have an informal discussion at least once a month, when the children aren't around, perhaps over dinner. Say what is working well, but also what isn't. The more you get to know your nanny, the better you can manage the relationship.

Then, if they don't respond and you still have doubts, you should go through oral and written warnings. Nannies are now more aware of their employment rights, and you have to behave in a professional way as well.

In this particular case, I feel the mother could have taken action sooner. A nanny shouldn't drink when baby-sitting and Clare should have been dismissed at that stage, or at least given a final written warning. It wasn't a "one-off"; it is suggested she drank heavily. It is no different from taking drugs. When a nanny lives in your house you have the right to comment on what they do in their own time.

**After completing an NNEB course, Katie Potter has worked as a live-in nanny for two-and-a-half years.**

This story sounds horrific, and Clare was lucky to keep her job for so long. OK, lots of nannies have drunken nights out at weekends, but you don't drink on duty – which includes the time when you are baby-sitting.

It was good that the parents showed an interest in Clare's career, but I'm not sure they did enough to help her when she got depressed. They kept giving her another chance, even after she had dropped their child. She clearly kept on drinking too much. The children's well-being was in danger.

**Peter Cullimore is chairman of child care at the Federation of Recruitment and Employment Services (FRES).**

The legal position is that, unless there has been "gross misconduct", you should go through the formal disciplinary procedures – an oral and then a written warning before dismissal. But with a nanny, we recommend that once the trust has broken down it is time to part company. Children are involved, so it is probably better to ask the nanny to leave immediately and give her a month's pay in lieu of notice.

FRES's standard nanny contract of employment lists theft, drunkenness, illegal drug-taking and child abuse as reasons for summary dismissal. The parents should have taken action long before they did – I think, when the nanny dropped the child. If a nanny is drunk on your premises, you should say good-bye. Also, people with a drink problem are marvellous at concealing it; you just can't take any risks where children are concerned.

A nanny will build affection for children, but these parents made the mistake of letting her get too attached. A nanny must not become a substitute for the parents.

# 19/OBITUARIES

THE INDEPENDENT  
THURSDAY 8 JANUARY 1998

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## Tom Hudson

**Tom Hudson, teacher and artist:** born Horden, Co Durham 3 July 1922; married 1949 Moira Marshall (one son, one daughter; marriage dissolved 1957), 1968 Sally Smith (one son); died Bristol 27 December 1997.

It is difficult now, with the whole world supposedly looking to British art for a lead, to imagine the complacent parochialism of art education, and by extension, the whole of the British art world, 50 years ago. Abstract Expressionism was bubbling up in New York, but drawing from classical casts was still one of the primary modes of instruction in British art schools. Heraldry was still on the curriculum.

Tom Hudson was one of a handful of individuals who smashed that cosy academic world for ever, letting in a flood of international influences, breaking down the barriers between art and design and creating a climate in which British art schools were acclaimed as the best in the world. A stocky, black-bearded son of the Durham coalfield, an impulsive socialist visionary with a touch of the streetfighter, he had a remarkable gift for inspiring and energising others.

Raised in a working-class environment with practically no exposure to art of any kind, he nonetheless acquired artistic ambitions at an early age. After active service in the Far East, he was exposed to the European avant-garde during periods of leave in Paris, and returned to disrupted studies at Sunderland School of Art with a feeling that he must Do Something. During a teaching year at King's College, Newcastle, and a period at the Courtauld Institute, London's grand bastion of academic art history, he began to evolve his own educational ideas, influenced by Herbert Read's 1943 book *Education through*

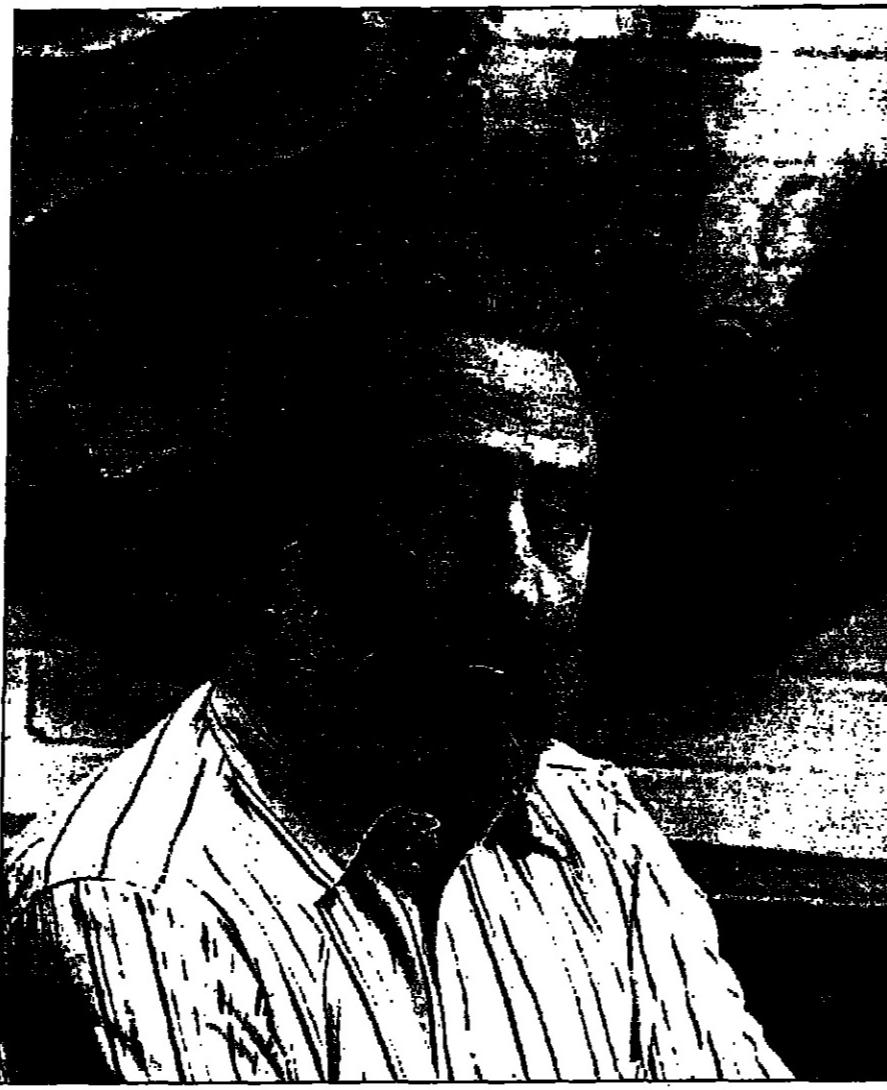
Art and the assemblage-based strategies of the Constructivist and de Stijl movements. In 1951, through Anthony Blunt's recommendation, he gained his first teaching post, at Lowestoft, a tiny provincial backwater.

His research into child art brought him into contact with Victor Pasmore, who had created a Bauhaus-inspired basic course at Newcastle. From 1954 he, Pasmore and Harry Thubron led a series of summer schools for teachers at Scarborough, where the principles of what became known as Basic Design – the stripping back of the students' preconceived ideas through exercises in form, space and colour – were evolved. What had previously been isolated developments cohered with Herbert Read's encouragement into a movement whereby a nucleus of trained teachers would convert the mass to modernist teaching methods.

In 1957 Hudson joined Thubron at Leeds, where their far-reaching experiments involving everything from heavy industrial techniques to a philosophy of the irrational introduced by the painter Alan Davie became the inspiration for young teachers all over the country. Soon the London-based educational establishment was beating a path to their door.

Many of their ideas and recommendations were absorbed by the Coldstream Committee of 1961, which introduced diplomas, radically modernising and academicising the art schools, and the Summerhill Council which brought in full-blown degrees in 1968.

Impatient with Leeds' exclusively fine-art orientation, Hudson became Head of Foundation Studies at Leicester, and with the aid of dynamic young artists like Michael Sandie and Terry Sitch, set about creating a totally integrated system of art and design education. A revelatory exhibition of students' work, "The Visual Adventure", toured



Hudson: a socialist visionary with a touch of the streetfighter

to the Royal Festival Hall and the Museum of Modern Art in New York in 1963. Hudson was invited to lecture all over the world, becoming a consultant to Unesco and adviser on art education to the Brazilian government.

Had he bided his time, one of the great London colleges might have fallen into his hands. But Hudson was more interested in his own utopias than other people's career structures. In 1964, he moved his entire staff and the pick of his students to Cardiff, where he was appointed Director of Studies with almost unlimited powers and budget. In its day, Cardiff had probably the most radical programmes anywhere,

attracting the attention of teachers from all over the world.

By the mid-Seventies, the perceived didacticism of Basic Design (a term Hudson himself never used) had become unfashionable. In most colleges, a structureless system of do-it-yourself prevailed. When his academic freedoms were curtailed in a bureaucratic shake-up at Cardiff, Hudson fled to Vancouver with the aim of creating another ground-breaking institution. The position of Dean of Instruction, however, proved to be largely administrative, and his gritty rigour did not blend well with laid-back West Coast hedonism.

Although he exhibited his

own sculpture to some acclaim, Hudson's natural medium was teaching. He genuinely believed that, if ordinary people could be made to understand the great artistic, scientific and intellectual achievements of the 20th century, the world's problems would be solved. To this end, while in his seventies, he made a number of television series designed to make the excitement of a creative education and his own highly personal interpretations of the modern art movements available to the man in the street. These won many of the highest awards available to such programmes in North America.

— Mark Hudson

## Helen Kirkpatrick Milbank

**Helen Kirkpatrick, journalist:** born Rochester, New York 18 October 1905; married 1934 Robbins Milbank (died 1985); died Williamsburg, Virginia 29 December 1997.

Helen Kirkpatrick, one of the first and best American war correspondents in the Second World War, was always at the forefront of the action.

She encountered little of the hostility experienced by other American women reporters in the war, her appearance as well as her expertise commanding respect. Having inherited the features of her Scottish ancestors, she was a distinguished-looking woman, with high cheek bones and bright blue eyes. As her first correspondent remarked, she was tall enough to overlook insults.

By the time the other American war correspondents arrived in Britain, in the wake of Pearl Harbor, Kirkpatrick had five years' experience of Europe. At the age of 30, she knew most of the leaders of Britain and France, and they respected her.

Kirkpatrick had an outstanding academic record at Smith College, one of America's leading female universities, and later at the University of Geneva. She worked in France as a stringer for the *New York Herald Tribune* and in 1937 came to England as a freelance journalist, temporarily acting as the diplomatic correspondent of *The Sunday Times*.

Together with Victor Gordon-Lennox, of the *Daily Telegraph*, with whom she was on close terms, and with Graham Hutton of the *Economist*, she started a weekly newsletter, the *Whitehall News*, which waged a strong campaign against the policy of appeasing the dictators. In the House of Commons, it was regularly read by Winston Churchill and Anthony Eden. The King of Sweden was an

other subscriber. As the men working on the newsletter were moonlighters, Kirkpatrick and her secretary were the only full-time members of the staff. Of the Munich Pact she wrote, "This truce may well induce rather than prevent war." She expanded her views in two books, *This Terrible Peace* (1938) and *Under the British Umbrella* (1939).

As war approached Kirkpatrick was engaged to the London office of the *Chicago Daily News*. Frank Knox's liberal rival of Colonel Robert McCormick's isolationist *Chicago Tribune*. As her first assignment she suggested that she should interview the Duke of Windsor. Her male colleagues scoffed at the idea, knowing that the former king did not give interviews. But Kirkpatrick knew the people with whom he was staying in England and went to see them. The Duke explained that he had sworn not to give any interviews, but he saw no reason why he should not interview her. Thus her first contribution to the *Chicago Daily News* was the Duke of Windsor's interview of Helen Kirkpatrick.

Peter Knox, who was to become Roosevelt's Secretary of the Navy, explained to her, "We don't have women on the staff." She told him, "I can't change my sex. But you can change your policy." Knox did not change his policy. He simply made an exception for her.

She fearlessly reported the London Blitz and in 1943 she went to Algiers and spent six months covering the North African campaign, including the surrender of the Italian fleet at Malta. After D-Day she covered the Free French requested her presence and she became the first correspondent assigned to the headquarters of the native forces operating inside France.

She entered Paris on 25 August 1944 riding in a tank of General Leclerc's 2nd Armoured Division. In the subsequent *Té Deum* which General

de Gaulle attended in Notre Dame Cathedral she, who was the next tallest person present after de Gaulle, had to throw herself on to the floor, as he did, when snipers began shooting at them.

She went to Hitler's famous mountain retreat, "Eagle's Nest", above Berchtesgaden in Bavaria, where she swiped a frying pan from the Führer's kitchen to cook field rations. After the war she covered the war crimes trials at Nuremberg. As a roving correspondent for the *New York Post* she was one of the first to interview Jawaharlal Nehru, the prime minister of newly independent India.

Kirkpatrick's next post was as information officer for the Marshall Plan mission in Paris in the mid-1940s. Later she moved to Washington to become the Public Affairs Officer for the Western European Division of the State Department. I was then the BBC news correspondent in Washington and found her a wise and reliable source. One day, just before my radio circuit to London, it was announced that the banker Winthrop Aldrich would be the next American Ambassador to London. I rang Helen Kirkpatrick urgently. "You must know Aldrich. Can you give me in one sentence what kind of a man he is?" Without hesitation she replied, "A closed mind and an open fly." In those days that kind of remark was not acceptable on the BBC news.

Kirkpatrick next returned to academic life as the secretary to the President of Smith College and in 1954 she married Robbins Milbank, one of the trustees of Smith, a member of a prominent New England family. The Milbanks maintained homes in New Hampshire and California. She worked as a civic leader in both states. After her husband's death she settled in Williamsburg, Virginia, where she died peacefully, just after having her hair trimmed.

— Leonard Miall

## Vanda Gréville

**Vanda MacEwan (Vanda Vanger), actress:** born London 10 January 1908; married 1930 Edmond Gréville (died 1966; one daughter; marriage dissolved); died Westgate on Sea, Kent 26 December 1997.

In René Clair's classic film-musical comedy *Le Millon* (1931), Vanda Gréville was Vanda, the American vamp flirting with René Lefèvre's garret artist. This slender blonde opportunist is none too pleased to discover he is penniless but eagerly joins the search for his stolen jacket which carries a winning lottery ticket.

This early role would remain the highlight of Gréville's career. It had been preceded by her other proudest achievement, playing a leading role in Abel Gance's multilingual *La Fin du Monde* (1930).

Born Vanda MacEwan to a

Scottish father and Norwegian mother, she had wanted to be an actress from childhood and skipped school in Fulham to work as an extra on an Alfred Hitchcock film. While in Paris at a finishing school, she was spotted by Gance and screen-tested.

Speaking no French, she auditioned by reciting "He Fell Among Thieves" with such emotion that Gance (who understood no English) was reduced to tears. He bartered his prim young discovery from taking part in the orgy scenes of *La Fin du Monde* when mankind, threatened with destruction by a comet, has a last wild fling. She was billed as Vanda Vanger, taking her mother's maiden name, and played in the English and German-speaking versions of the film.

While seeking a career in British films (and impersonating Greta Garbo in a promotional short) she fell wildly in love with and married a half-

English avant-garde film-maker called Edmond Gréville. He had acted in René Clair's *Sous les Toits de Paris* (1930) and introduced his new wife to Clair when he was casting *Le Millon*.

Gréville himself started writing and directing feature films, and starred his wife in *Le Train des Suicides* (1931) as a singer who has suddenly lost her voice. In Britain she co-starred as a French woman opposite Arthur Wontner in the drama *A Gentleman of Paris* (1931) but gained only a small role as a barmaid in *Ebb Tide* (1932). She found better opportunities in France, often playing English characters as in *L'Or dans la Rue* (1934) and *Le Train d'Amour* (1935), and became a society figure with a circle of friends that included Mrs Wallis Simpson.

Vanda Gréville's last film appearance was in 1939, in her husband's highly topical drama *Menaces*. She played an American, one of several foreigners

living in a hotel in the Latin Quarter of Paris as the Second World War erupts.

Vanda herself caught one of the last trains to England before the fall of France, clutching only a Utrillo painting and a vase supply of her favourite face cream, while Edmond spent the war hiding in Cannes. In London, she did propaganda work for General de Gaulle, broadcasting to France and working on schemes to bring out prominent Frenchmen left behind. She would have liked to parachute into France as a special agent, but her English accent and well-known looks ruled that out.

Returning to France after the war, she worked for Unesco and as a journalist, never resuming her acting career. She came back to England when her parents' health failed and, divorced from her husband, lived quietly in Kent from the mid-1960s.

— Allen Eyles

## Jack Marshall

**John Gilmore Marshall, footballer and football manager:** born Bolton, Lancashire 29 May 1917; played for Burnley 1936-48; managed Rochdale 1958-60; Sheffield Wednesday 1960-67, Bury 1969; married; died Rotherham, South Yorkshire 1 January 1998.

Before a combination of Jack Walker's millions and the inspirational guidance of Kenny Deligh brought fame and success to Blackburn Rovers in 1995, only one man since the Second World War had given the homely football club from the Lancashire textile town the faintest whiff of championship glory. His name was Jack Marshall, and whereas those modern mizzlies had untold financial resources at their disposal, three decades earlier "Jolly Jack" was forced to watch every penny as he led a make-do-and-mend side to the summit of England's premier league.

"Marshall's Misfits" said proudly, albeit briefly, atop the old First Division on Boxing Day 1963, their presence on that long pinnacle a tribute to the manager who had constructed an attractive, attacking team, substantially from erstwhile unconsidered talents.

It couldn't last and Rovers were overhauled subsequently by the big-city brigade from Liverpool and Manchester. The unavoidable springtime sale of their star centre-forward Fred Pickering to Everton, one of Blackburn's chief rivals, proved the final nail in that season's title aspirations, all the more poignantly since Pickering had been converted by Marshall from a plodding reserve full-back, the player's rise to prominence thus personifying his boss's shrewd shrewdness.

Thereafter, with seeming inevitability as the fortunes of most small-town clubs began to

nosedive following the abolition of the players' maximum wage limit, Rovers declined during the remainder of Marshall's Ewood Park reign and an exhilarating period of their history was over.

Jack Marshall had entered professional football as a player at Burnley in 1936 and emerged as a capable full-back before injury forced his premature retirement in 1948. He became a coach, serving Burnley and Stoke City before joining Sheffield Wednesday in 1954 and assisting the national boss, Walter Winterbottom, with the England "B" team.

In 1958 Marshall stepped up to management, experiencing relegation from the Third Division with Rochdale in his first season, but performed impressively enough to take charge of the top-flight Blackburn, a club riven by internal strife, in 1960. He embarked on a sorely needed team-rebuilding job with gusto, disregarding reputations and experimenting boldly while enjoying admirable support from the classy stalwarts Ronnie Clayton and Bryan Douglas, with the result that Rovers became one of the most entertaining sides in the land.

However, the slide that followed the euphoria of 1963/64 led to demotion in 1966 and Marshall's resignation in 1967. Later that year he was appointed assistant boss of Sheffield Wednesday, shifting to the manager's seat in 1968. He worked hard at Hillsborough but left after a disappointing 1968/69, later taking over at Bury for a brief spell before spending the decade leading up to his 1979 retirement back at Blackburn as club physiotherapist.

It was fitting that Marshall should finish his footballing days at Ewood Park. As Rovers fans with long memories will confirm, when "the team that Jack built" crops up in conversation, it is always the Walker version which is being discussed.

— Ivan Ponting

## Anthea Joseph

**Anthea Joseph, publicist:** born London 27 October 1940; died Friston, Suffolk 27 December 1997.

When the unknown Bob Dylan arrived in Britain for the first time, it is sometimes said that his only guide was a piece of paper from Pete Seeger bearing the words, "Troubadour Folk Club, London, ask for Anthea". The story is probably apocryphal but it illustrates the pivotal role in the music business of Anthea Joseph, the tall, elegant PR specialist-come-minister.

Joseph was one of those essential functionaries without whom the music business would find it impossible to operate. Stories accrued round her and she became an improbable

combination of legend and friend to many of the biggest names who emerged from the folk boom of the Sixties and the folk rock vogue of the Seventies.

The daughter of socialist parents – her mother, Elizabeth Young, had a fair claim to be considered Britain's first film critic, at the *Daily Worker*, while her father was Noel Joseph of the *News Chronicle* – Anthea grew up in Suffolk and was inexplicably given a convent education. Reconciling the conflicting values of home and school was, she said, invaluable for her future career.

A friendship with Dylan, however, did begin at the Troubadour. In the mid-Fifties via a chance encounter with a trio of buskers that included Redd Foxx. Her sometimes intimidating

presence on the club door placed her in an ideal position to meet the young lions of the Sixties world, like Bert Jansch and Davy Graham. Among them were some American singers-songwriters who were to become household names and she not infrequently found herself supplying emergency accommodation to these itinerants. While tales of the young Dylan sleeping on her floor would seem to be dubious, the dependence on her of many others, including Paul Simon and Tom Paxton, appears well established.

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— John Pilgrim

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

For BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS, please telephone 0771-293 0212 or fax 0771-293 2000.

**Birthdays**  
Miss Shirley Bassey, singer, 61; Mr David Bowie, singer and actor, 51; Mr Stuart Camerman, former chairman, Gallaher Ltd, 74; Mr Phil Hall, Editor, *News of the World*, 43; Lord Hardie QC, Lord Advocate, 51; Professor Stephen Hawking, mathematician, 56; Lord Hollenden, former chairman, I & R Morley, 74; Mr Andrew Hunter MP, 53; The Right Rev Edward Knapp-Fisher, Honorary Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Clifton, 83; Professor Sir Robert May, zoologist and ecologist, 61; Air Commodore John Metcalfe, former Director of RAF Nursing Services, 75; Mr Ron Moody, actor, 74; Mr Kenneth Purchase MP, 59; Miss Linda Reed, MEP, 59; Professor Brian Reddaway, economic consultant to the World Bank, 65; Professor Charles Tomlinson, Emeritus Professor of English, Bristol University, 81; Miss Galina Ulanova, former prima ballerina, 88; Professor Alan Wilson, Vice-Chancellor, Leeds University, 59.

**Anniversaries**  
Births: William Wilkie Collins, novelist, 1824; Frank Nelson Doubleday, publisher and editor, 1862; Viscount Craigavon (James Craig), Ulster statesman, 1871; Elvis Presley, rock singer, 1935; Deodato Gallo Galilei, astronomer, 1642; Paul Verlaine, poet, 1859; Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell, first Baron Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts, 1857; Richard Tudor,老人, 1948; Chou En-lai, Chinese leader, 1976. On this day: Chequers Court

was occupied by its first prime minister, David Lloyd George, 1921; in New York, seven floors of the Empire State Building

# 20/LEADER & LETTERS

## A truth universally acknowledged? Well, not quite, dear reader



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E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address.  
Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Who opened which book with the following words? "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that every man in possession of a fortune, must be in want of a wife." Easy. So try this more problematic poser. Who opened which book with these words? "The alarm went off in the middle of her dream. She was dreaming she was dancing, not the twist or jiving – these were beginning to be considered old-fashioned at the club – but something more old-fashioned still: she was gliding to music that seemed to come out of the clouds, for there was no orchestra that she could see and no roof to the ballroom?" And here is the real clincher. The first one is unquestionably a classic, and the second one is certainly not. Why?

Just to put you out of your misery, the second quotation is from *The Bonny Dawn*, one of the more recent of Catherine Cookson's bestselling romances; the first, as everyone knows, is the opening sentence of *Pride and Prejudice*, by Jane Austen. Or does everyone know? Who is

more widely read – the bespectacled Tyneside Dame, or fiction's most elegant ironist? Cookson's tale is compellingly told, with great verve, sensitivity, briskly believable dialogue, a keen sense of plot and swiftly flowing prose. Whatever it is, it's not rubbish. Many ostensibly classier and more earnestly feted scribblers wish they could pull it off like her. It's good – and it's recent – but (so prolific is the Cookson word machine) it wasn't even one of the nine Cookson novels to be among the 10 fiction titles most borrowed from British libraries last year.

Now, we all know that mere popularity is not enough to merit elevation to the status of "classic" novel. But we are very much less clear about what separates *The Bonny Dawn* from *Pride and Prejudice*. After all, Cookson's are great stories, well told. They seethe with universal passions and grapple with hefty social and emotional truths. Their language is neither brilliant, nor startlingly original, but neither is it thin, stilted, insubstantial or even

clichéd (in the way that, say, Jeffrey Archer's prose is). If they didn't succeed in some large measure, there is no way they would be so devotedly read by such a wide swathe of (mostly female) humanity.

So what is a classic? The old conundrum arises again because Dent, the publisher, has decided to throw together its own Everyman list of 250 classics and despatch a full set to schools. Good promo, you might say, and you'd be right. Because every list of classics includes and excludes in ways that are inevitably controversial, and controversy generates publicity. In this case many obvious "classics" have been excluded, and many questionable titles included, probably for copyright reasons. And then there is the occasionally politically correct inanity: presumably the publisher wanted to include the Old Testament for cultural and literary reasons, and therefore felt it essential to throw in *Sacred Hindu Texts* and a translation of *The Quran*. Then again, entire oeuvres of poetry are quite properly included –

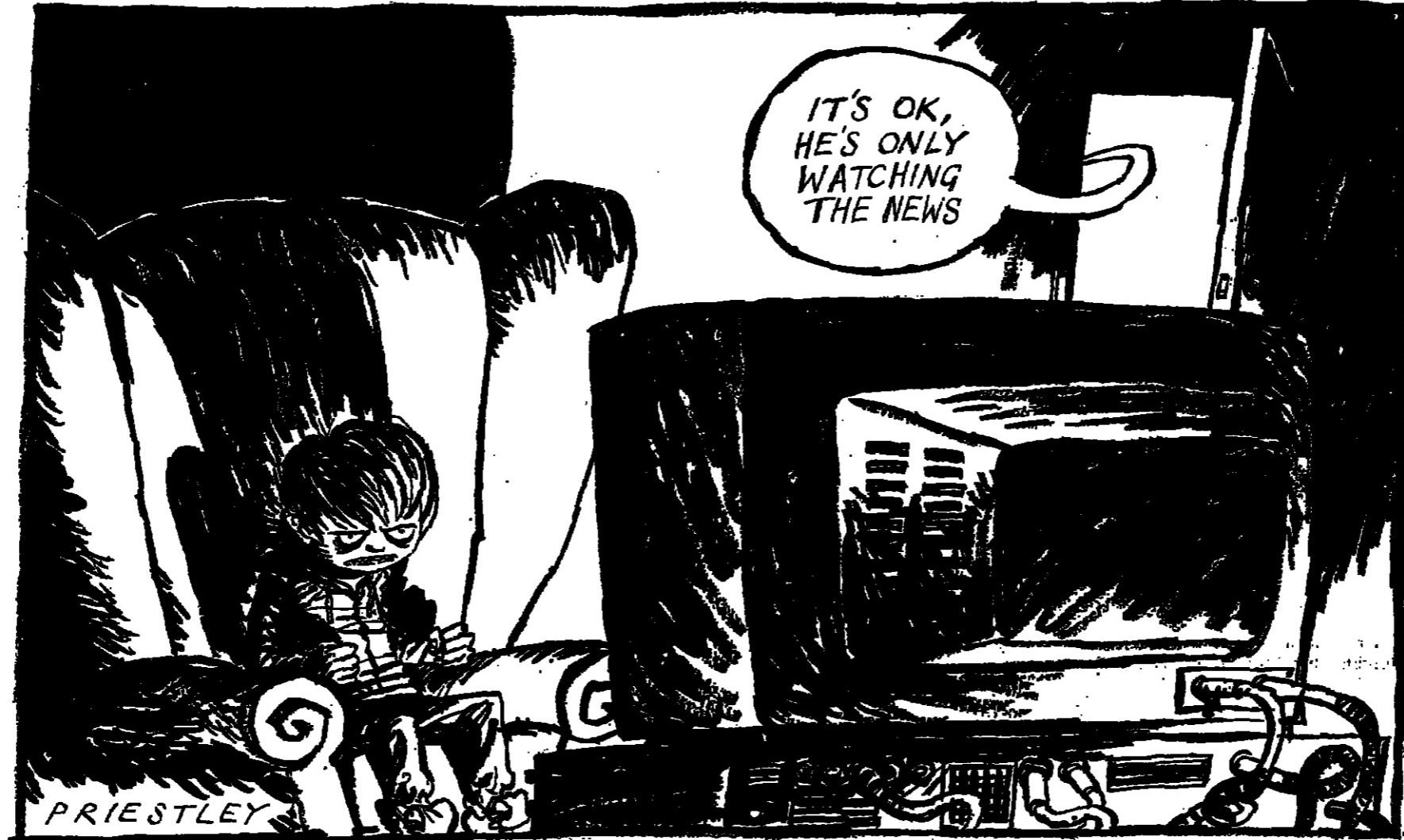
Coleridge, Marvell, Donne – but not a mention of some of the greatest and most important poems in our language: *The Prelude* and *In Memoriam* are bizarrely absent. But what the heck: isn't the search for exceptions and omissions half the fun, particularly since none of us are really sure what a classic is, we just know one when we see it?

Well, actually, you can say one or two things that make it quite a bit easier to identify a classic. First, it has to be a book that you can read once, and then return to and find a greater or at least different understanding. It is, in other words, a different book each time you read it – and therefore, by extension, it is a different book for every reader. Second (utterly Leavise, this one) it has to form part of a cultural tradition – either in creating or synthesising a new way of seeing, or in handing down a legacy. On these grounds, Catherine Cookson could, at least in theory, join the pantheon of classic writers – but it's a pretty fair guess she won't.

Equally, nor will many writers of so-called "modern" classics (Dent include *Midnight's Children*, for example: well, surely that remains to be seen).

But when all's said, does it matter a whit? This is the anti-Leavisite bit: no, it doesn't. The argument over what is and isn't classic is as ultimately meaningless as it is perennially entertaining. Many people will be able to identify books that are far more important to them than the classic texts. Some teachers have grumpily responded by arguing that they don't need a lot of boring old books, when they are crying out for more modern texts that young people actually want to read. Frankly, such teachers should be grateful for what they get, and encourage a few more of their pupils to experiment with the huge range of books Dent are putting on offer. For the rest – offer them something else. The important thing is that they read. Like the rest of us, in the end they will make up their own minds about what they value.

## LETTERS



### Cannabis trials

Sir: Dr Bill O'Neill of the British Medical Association predicts that cannabis derivatives will be available legally for medical use within a few years. ("Straw's challenge over cannabis drugs," 5 January). This would return us to the position before the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, when doctors were allowed to prescribe cannabis most often in tincture form.

On Saturday on BBC radio the Home Secretary said there was nothing to stop those who believe cannabis has therapeutic value from applying for a Home Office licence to test the drug. There are currently three licences allowing medical research with cannabis.

However, to satisfy the Government of the efficacy of cannabis, large-scale trials are needed using a controlled dose of the drug, and this cannot be done without the involvement of the pharmaceutical companies, who have been reluctant to touch cannabis because it is in schedule 1 of the 1971 Act – a category of controlled drugs with allegedly no therapeutic value.

We face a chicken-and-egg situation: the Government will not move cannabis from schedule 1 to schedule 2 (a pre-scribable drug with therapeutic value) until it can be shown to have a medical use. And this cannot be demonstrated to the Government's satisfaction without large-scale trials.

After reviewing the evidence – much of it admittedly small-scale or anecdotal – the BMA recognises that cannabis may have therapeutic uses for people suffering from conditions such as multiple sclerosis. The Government should now facilitate the large-scale trials that are needed.

GORDON PRENTICE MP  
(Pwllc, Lub)

House of Commons

Sir: In the 1980s, when I was in bed with flu, four of my sixth-form pupils arrived to ask how I was. They put four large, beautifully ridged joints on my bedside table and wished me well.

A day passed before I could face smoking anything, but when I did my depression eased at once, and in two days I was up. I shall always admire those boys for their daring altruism, and I am sure they are not nowadays marching their sons to the police station.

MAURICE HILL  
Alicante, Spain

### After devolution

Sir: Next week Parliament will take the second reading of the Scotland Bill setting up a Scottish parliament. The Bill itself seems to be carefully and sensibly drafted. But so far no attention seems to have been paid to the workings of the British Parliament after devolution.

How will English legislation be handled by English MPs to give it the same treatment as Scottish devolved legislation?

Will the House of Lords be bypassed, as for Scottish devolved legislation? What machinery will be set up to ensure an acceptable allocation of the Consolidated Fund between England and Scotland? (The Scottish parliament will have no standing in that.)

Before MPs are asked to vote on the Scotland Bill they surely have the right to know, and the duty to find out, what the consequences will be for the government of the country as a whole.

There can still be a role for those working behind the scenes. They and their experts can help set the competition parameters, they can help assess the entries and they can contribute to the garden's detailed design development, and finally they can take responsibility for the design's implementation and maintenance.

Inconvenient and awkward competitions may sometimes be but, in the absence of a clear and acceptable alternative proposal, for example to restore the original, perhaps dull, William and Mary box garden, selecting and developing a design in open competition will inject new and popular life into our valuable tradition of garden and landscape design.

Such an open process need not lead to a design of lesser quality simply by virtue of being popular, and would create a positive outlet for the creative expression of the feelings of many.

JOHN SOMERVILLE-LARGE  
London W1

The skies are becoming just as crowded with round-the-world balloonists as Mount Everest is with climbing expeditions. So for those who can't tell one shiny balloon attempt from another, here is a complete rundown of all those expeditions at present hoping to achieve the first non-stop hot air balloon trip round the world.

Michael Palin "Round The Top" TV Series Balloon

You thought there was no new way left for Michael Palin to go round the world? Wrong! 30,000ft up, that's how. What's amazing, as usual, is that he will be completely alone in the balloon, and yet will come back with hours of perfectly shot, perfectly focused film. How do they do it? And how many new and interesting people will he "accidentally" meet up there?

Tory Party Single Currency Balloon  
Lord Howe, Chris Patten and

many of the great and good (old and stubborn) of the Tory party are determined to fly the flag for Europe and against William Hague by getting in a basket together and taking off round the world. As they don't know where they will land, they are taking £2,000 in 20 different currencies with them, which can also be used as ballast. "I wouldn't be surprised if 'Throw out £50 in Hungarian small change!' didn't become a new music hall catchphrase!" says Lord Howe.

The Two Fat Ladies Balloon  
The first cookery programme to go round the world in a balloon with a side-car. The Two Fat Ladies Balloon will de-

### Cars of the future

Sir: Christopher Padley's scepticism regarding hydrogen as a fuel for cars of the future (*Letters*, 5 January) should not go unchallenged.

In the short to medium term, hybrid vehicles will provide a partial answer to the problems of congestion and pollution. At present, safe transportation of this fuel is a problem but there are hopeful signs that research is producing answers.

Metal hydrides which can fix hydrogen are one solution. However, the most promising storage technology is being pioneered by the Northern University at Boston, Massachusetts. The claim is that a nanofibre graphite cartridge can safely store huge amounts of hydrogen at a pressure of 40 atmospheres. The gas is released by gradually reducing the pressure. One cartridge is said to be able to fuel a car for 5,000 miles and a cartridge could

be reused up to five times (*New Scientist*, 21/28 December 1996).

Considerable resource is being channelled into the development of photovoltaic cells. As their efficiency increases and unit cost is reduced, they will be the logical source of electricity to produce hydrogen via electrolysis. Car manufacturers are right to recognise that there are glittering prizes to be won in the race for zero emission cars at all points along the energy chain. Professor PETER F SMITH  
*Chairman, Environment and Planning Committee  
Royal Institute of British Architects  
London W1*

Sir: On one page of *The Independent* of 5 January we read that the Government is refusing to support a Private Member's Bill to reduce road traffic levels, and on another we read that fare rises above inflation are being applied to a London Underground system which is falling apart.

Tony Blair once said: "We

must not demonise the car." So I suppose we shouldn't be surprised that his government is burying its head in the sand over the balance between public and private transport. Regularly we

see the PM and senior ministers gliding short distances around central London in big black cars. Would it not be a good idea for Tony Blair to surprise us one day by walking or catching a bus from Downing Street to the Houses of Parliament?

NICHOLAS MURRAY  
*Prestige, Powys  
London W1*

Sir: The Snowdonia National Park authority's proposal to limit private car traffic in the park make great sense (report, 6 January). The proposals include provision of public transport, so how can these plans be reconciled with the author's opposition to the reconstruction of the erstwhile Welsh Highland Railway where its route passes through the park? G GREEN  
*London N10  
Liverpool*

Sir: George Gömöri (letter, 3 January) cites James I as an early example of a "thinking person" who was virulently anti-smoking. That monarch was also convinced that the country was in danger of being swept away on a tide of witchcraft, and was red-hot on discovering and burning alleged practitioners. It is this aspect of his thinking that lives on in the fulminations of those ever eager to seek out and destroy any social behaviour which they have deemed "foul".

DON HOWE

*Liverpool*

## The Princess Diana Memorial Balloon, and other good uses for a lot of hot air



MILES  
KINGTON

will be bright orange and Chris will be broadcasting all his normal shows from on board.

Michael Palin "Round The Top" TV Series Balloon  
You thought there was no new way left for Michael Palin to go round the world? Wrong! 30,000ft up, that's how. What's amazing, as usual, is that he will be completely alone in the balloon, and yet will come back with hours of perfectly shot, perfectly focused film. How do they do it? And how many new and interesting people will he "accidentally" meet up there?

Tory Party Single Currency Balloon  
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many of the great and good (old and stubborn) of the Tory party are determined to fly the flag for Europe and against William Hague by getting in a basket together and taking off round the world. As they don't know where they will land, they are taking £2,000 in 20 different currencies with them, which can also be used as ballast. "I wouldn't be surprised if 'Throw out £50 in Hungarian small change!' didn't become a new music hall catchphrase!" says Lord Howe.

The Two Fat Ladies Balloon  
The first cookery programme to go round the world in a balloon with a side-car. The Two Fat Ladies Balloon will de-

scend here and there, and cause consternation as two fat ladies disgorge themselves from the gondola and tell the locals they're cooking it all wrong. This will be the largest balloon going round the world, as it will be carrying so much extra bulk. (Mostly flour, butter and olive oil.)

The Princess Diana Memorial Balloon.  
Earl Spencer has announced that in response to zillions of requests, he has decided in Diana's memory to send a balloon shaped like a temple round the world so that people of all nations can worship her name as she passes. The balloon will not be manned, but people can throw in flow-

ers as it passes, preferably non-rotting. Before take-off, you may visit the site but only be able to see the balloon from half a mile away. Phone Earl Spencer for more details.

The Start The Week Balloon  
Melvyn Bragg is hoping to make a serious attempt to discover if, by taking a group of thinkers round the world, you can talk your way into discovering the origins of everything before you have come back. The experts in the balloon will include a geneticist, a leading novelist, a man who is giving a lecture at the Royal Geographical Society this Wednesday, and a rather pretty girl from one of the newspapers, who will be

thrown out if things get rough.

The Royal Opera House Balloon  
While Covent Garden is closed and being refurbished, low-budget productions will be toured from this balloon. Unfortunately, the cost of installing all the governors, VIPs, corporate hospitality, etc means that it is already horrendously over-budget. Perhaps they will just take a *leider* recital on tour after all.

The Spin Doctor Balloon  
Built in the shape of a dome, this structure will take 10 spin doctors round the world, who intend to land everywhere there is adverse comment about the balloon and de-

mand that the record be put straight. The fact that I have already had two pained phone calls from Peter Mandelson since I started writing this paragraph shows how serious they are.

Lord Lichfield and the Most Beautiful Girls in The World  
Nice to see this veteran lot in action again. Responsible for some of the most popular garage calendars of recent years, they aim to produce the ultimate – a series of photographs taken at altitudes too high for champagne to be safely air-lifted. "We may be reduced to Château Margaux," quips the light-hearted Lord. "See you again in 12 months!"

John C. Scott



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FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

## Gambling industry deregulation is shelved indefinitely

The Government has delayed plans to deregulate the casino and betting industry indefinitely. Andrew Yates reports on a move that could cost the gambling industry hundreds of millions of pounds.

The Home Office is understood to have postponed plans to introduce legislation which would have allowed casinos and betting shops to attract customers by installing more gaming machines. The proposals are unlikely to be adopted for several years at least, according to industry sources. Similarly plans to increase the number of casinos around the country by granting up to 25 new licences in provincial towns and cities are believed to have been shelved for the foreseeable future.

A question mark is also hanging over a number of other industry reforms which had been due to be introduced in a new government bill within the next few months. These include allowing punters to become a member of a casino by post. Under the current system customers are forced to apply in person.

The industry has been lobbying to be allowed some form of limited advertising. At present casinos are prevented from advertising even listing their name in the phone book. However this measure could also be put on the back-burner along with proposals to allow customers to join a group of casinos by making just one application.

Before the election Labour Party officials told industry chiefs that it was keen to push ahead with the gaming deregulation programme that had been put in train by the Conservative administration. But since then it has dragged its feet and failed to announce the adoption of any new measures. Now there are growing fears throughout the betting industry that the Home Office is poised to make a policy U-turn.

One source said: "The government has other priorities at the moment with a heavy legislative programme. Gambling deregulation is hardly a vote winner and it will be swept under the carpet for the time being or possibly for ever."

Eighteen months ago the Tories increased the number of gaming machines permitted in casinos from two to six and fixed the maximum jackpot at £250. The idea was eventually to allow three machines per gaming table with unlimited stakes and pay outs.

Two slot machines were also permitted in betting shops with payouts of up to £10. Hopes of further machines appear to have been dashed.

The delays will have wide-scale financial repercussions for betting groups. Bruce Jones, a leisure analysts at Merrill Lynch, the City brokers, estimates that delays to gaming deregulation will cost companies millions of pounds of profits. The introduction of more gaming machines alone could have increased the profits at Stanley Leisure by a half, Stakis by a fifth and London Clubs International (LCI) by 15 per cent. "The introduction of gaming machines was the big prize for the industry," said Mr Jones.

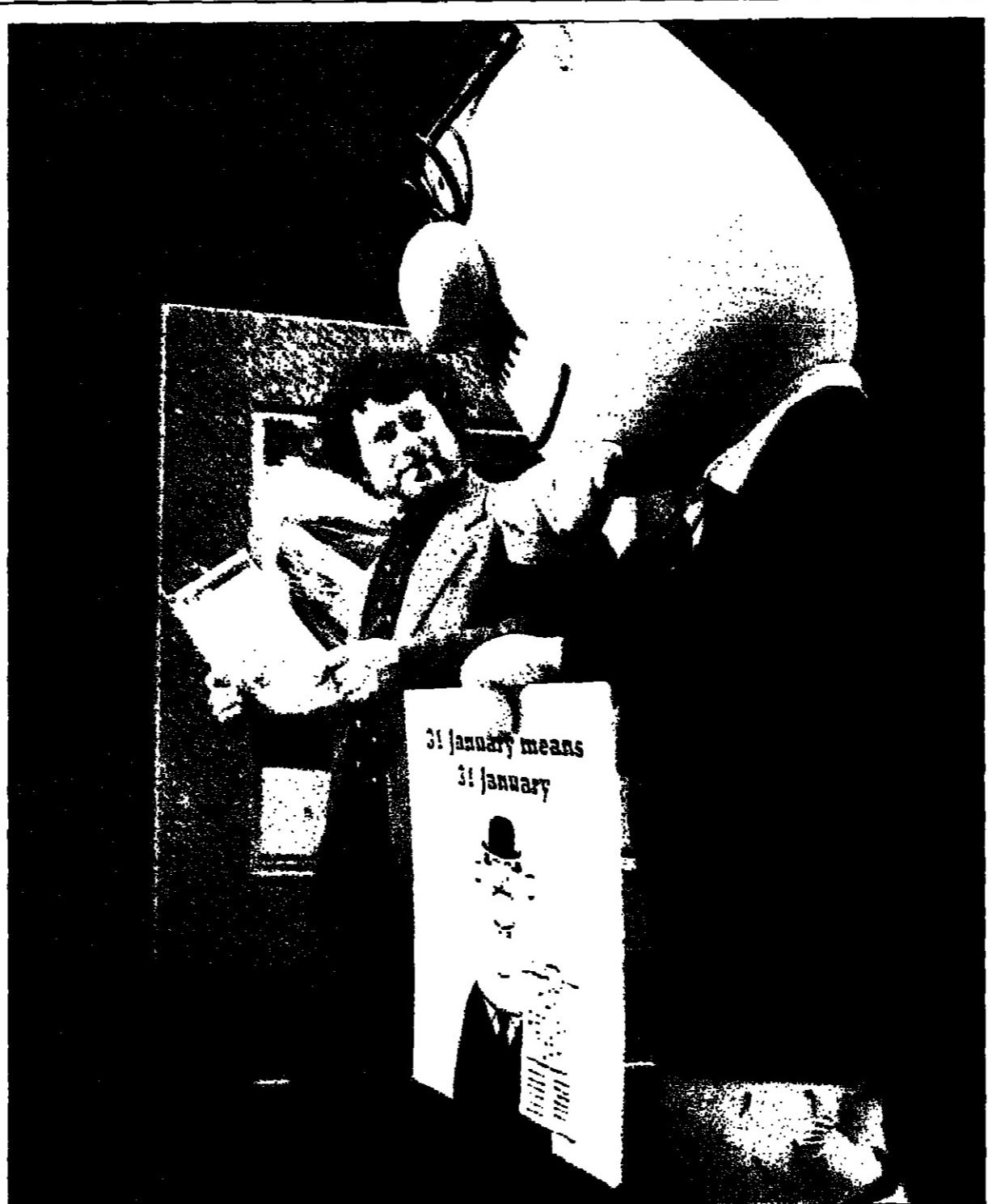
The prospects of further delays have prompted an outcry from the betting industry yesterday. Alan Goodenough, head of LCI, one of the biggest casino operators in the country, but he said he was bitterly disappointed by the continued delays. "On the face of it the Government has a will to deregulate the industry but behind the scenes I am not quite so sure. The situation is a nonsense and is evidence of mollycoddling by a nanny state."

The delays may force casino operators such as LCI look overseas for expansion opportunities. "The fact of the matter is that we are a mile off the international pace. This could take a lot of business overseas and this decision could damage the economy of the country and the tourist industry," said Mr Goodenough.

However the move was welcomed by anti-gambling pressure groups and by charities which have already seen revenues eroded by the National Lottery.

Even if gaming deregulation is eventually adopted, the industry will probably have to accept watered down proposals.

The Home Office said yesterday that the deregulation of the gaming industry was still under consideration but refused to comment on whether immediate plans had been shelved.



A total of 3.4 million people - 37 per cent of the taxpayers - face fines of £100 each if they do not return their forms by the end of the month, yielding the Treasury up to £340m, it emerged yesterday. Rory McGrath, the comedian (above), joined Hector the Tax Inspector in urging self-employed taxpayers to return their forms and tax payments by 31 January. Surcharges

for late payment will also begin after that date. However, Revenue officials insisted that 90 per cent of the remaining forms were due from accountants and tax agents, who always returned clients' forms at the last minute. So far 5.6 million of the 9 million returns have been completed and filed with the tax inspectors, as of 31 December.

Photograph: Christian Schwetje

## Savings proposals under fresh attack

The Government yesterday came under renewed attack over the proposed individual savings account, as the financial services industry accused it of glossing over the vital issue of protection for the very people it wants to encourage. Andrew Verity reports on complaints that the proposals would turn supermarket check-out staff into unqualified financial advisers.

The country's leading savings companies yesterday unanimously came out to warn that the individual savings account designed to replace Peps will not work for low-income savers.

They warned that regulation of the product has been so poorly thought-out that supermarket till staff would be faced with the same daunting responsibilities as qualified financial advisers.

The proposals are designed to give savers a low-cost, tax-efficient account which can hold up to £1,000 in cash, £1,000 in life insurance or £5,000 in collective investments such as unit trusts. Initially, objections focused on the proposed lifetime limit of £50,000 on contributions to the account. But the savings industry has become increasingly frightened that low-income savers will be left unprotected.

Directors of the companies said the complexity of the product was totally incompatible with unregulated selling through outlets such as Tesco. They warned that the propos-

als meant it would be sold by unqualified personnel with no protection against a bad sale.

A Treasury spokeswoman said she was unable to comment before 31 January, when consultation is due to end.

David Mossop, chief executive of Perpetual, the UK's largest Pep provider, said: "Is someone who is 16, on the cash till at Sainsbury's, going to be trained to the same level of competence as a professional adviser? Is the girl going to say, 'Invest £5,000 in equities with us and we'll give you half price on your Christmas turkey?'" The idea that this thing can be sold effectively with proper consumer protection is pie in the sky."

Currently, life insurance and unit trusts are sold under strict rules which insist customers must be given best advice by qualified sales people, while cash deposits are more lightly regulated. The Government proposes to create a hybrid product with one foot in each regime.

The industry fears that savers could be encouraged to put money on deposit at a supermarket or elsewhere, only to find they had barred themselves from investing more than £1,000 - or from putting their money in other investments with better returns. Further, the complexity of the product will sharply increase costs.

Tom King, group director of Standard Life, the country's largest mutual life insurer, said: "You could make a decision at a supermarket that will affect your ability to invest elsewhere in the long-term, when good advice would be to discuss other investments. The Government wants a low-cost product to which the public will have easy access - and this isn't it."

The Asian markets' turmoil last night looked poised to take its toll on one of the region's fastest growing finance conglomerates, Peregrine Investments Holdings. Shares in the company were suspended yesterday as it was revealed that the Zurich Group, the insurance giant, was reconsidering its offer to take a 24 per cent stake in Peregrine.

There was speculation in Hong Kong that Zurich might walk away from the \$200m (£122m) deal which could leave Peregrine in serious difficulty. The Hong Kong company has admitted to heavy losses as a result of the sharp downturn in Asian markets. It has recently been embroiled in well-publicised difficulties in Indonesia, Vietnam and Burma. Peregrine is trying to sell one-third of its equity to outside investors, including Zurich.

The fear now is that the Indonesian government will simply declare a debt moratorium, turning its back on loan repayments with the same disregard it has shown for adherence to the terms of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) rescue package. The IMF, in turn, is reported to be looking again at the release of further funds to Indonesia.

The company promises to make an announcement on the situation today, but yesterday said only that the renegotiation with Zurich was related to "the continuing decline in South-east Asian currency markets and the recent downgrading of the credit ratings of Indonesia and South Korea".

The Asian currency melt-down gathered pace yesterday, led by a plunge in the Indonesian rupiah. The Indonesia currency crashed 15 per cent at one point in yesterday's trading before ending the day with an 11 per cent fall. There is now a con-

- Chris Godsmark

## GTE puts a spanner in the wheel of WorldCom's MCI bid

The \$37bn takeover bid for MCI, the US long distance phones giant, by WorldCom is facing new hurdles, it emerged yesterday, following a complaint to regulators by GTE, the phone group which lost out in a three-way offer battle.

The objection to the deal, made this week, came as GTE revealed plans to expand its operations in Europe and raised the prospects of an alliance with British Telecom, which also saw its plans to merge

with MCI collapse last year after the higher bid approach by WorldCom.

GTE, the third largest telecoms business in the US, said it had raised objections to the WorldCom bid for MCI. Had GTE won the bid, it would have cemented a close partnership with BT, though GTE said three-way merger talks were not seriously contemplated.

Mike Masin, GTE's vice chairman responsible for international strategy, said: "We'd like to continue to build the relationship with BT."

GTE made clear that it hoped to expand its relationship with BT regardless of the outcome of the WorldCom bid for MCI. Had GTE won the bid, it would have

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## OUTLOOK

ON WHY THE GOLD PRICE ISN'T FALLING. BONUS CUTTING AMONG LIFE-ASSURANCE COMPANIES. AND ANOTHER YEAR OF TURMOIL FOR THE RECS

# Don't worry; the gold price means nothing

What a dreadful time for gold bugs. Or is it? The price of gold, it is often said, is in the eye of the beholder and never more so than now. While the headlines here and in the US scream that the gold price has hit an 18 year low, portending the start of a new age of deflation, that is far from the view in large parts of the rest of the world. Certainly the idea of the gold price as an indicator of what might happen in the wider economy is nonsense. A bar of gold is an entirely inert thing; its price tells you nothing about anything except supply and demand.

Right now, the price of gold depends very much on your location. This is because gold is denominated in dollars and over the past year, the dollar has been one of the world's strongest currencies. The US might like to think of itself as the centre of the world, but in terms of population, it's nothing special. If you happen to live in South Korea, Thailand or Indonesia, the price of gold is not at a new low at all; in local currency terms it is in fact at an all time high.

Furthermore, outside the US and Europe there is a radically different view of the intrinsic value of this strangely behaving metal. In India, the largest buyer of bullion last year, runaway demand for gold is in part being caused by the fear that the Indian Rupee might go the same way as the Korean Won. In this country at least, the ancient attributes of gold as something that holds its value through thick and thin still very much hold good.

As it does too in countries where banks have come to be seen as unsafe places to

hold your cash. In South Korea, gold has performed better than almost any other investment, proving its credentials beyond any doubt as a safe haven in times of trouble. Moreover, even if it were possible to buy dollars with Korea Wons, most Koreans have grown wary of anything that needs to be held in something as unreliable as a bank.

So here we have a very different view of gold, one that continues to view it as a reliable store of value. Precisely what is causing it to drop in dollar terms right now is certainly a curiosity. Demand for gold last year reached an all time high and there is evidence that the low gold price might cause a contraction in supply as mines are mothballed or closed. Theoretically, the price should be rising. Against this, however, is the continued threat of large scale gold sales by central banks from reserves. That's caused a collapse in sentiment and prompted many traders to take out short positions.

Longer term there is no reason to believe the gold price will continue plummeting into the depths. Those who take this view do so largely on the grounds that because the gold price has done well in inflationary times, it must correspondingly do badly if prices are falling. Wrong. Apart from anything else, gold is not the evidence, particularly a good hedge against inflation. Its real - that is, inflation-adjusted - price has been gently falling for the past 20 years.

Nor would it be right to view its present, relatively low, dollar price as a clear deflationary signal. Gold is quite unlike most other commodities. Its purpose is often a purely decorative one. Elsewhere

in the commodities markets, there isn't much evidence of deflation. And in any case, commodity prices rarely make good forward indicators. If you are not holding gold, don't worry about it. The collapse in its dollar price means nothing at all.

## Bad news for life assurance

Mysterious stuff, life assurance. If you bought a profit policy in the mid 1980s, chances are you were quoted some impressive estimated maturity values. Unfortunately, these would almost certainly have been based on the heady annual bonus levels then being declared. If you've still got the estimate, look it up, because you are not going to get anything like as much money as he was quoted.

Several life assurance companies have already announced sharp cuts in reversionary bonuses this week and most others will be following suit shortly. How can this be? After all, the stock market had another record year last year.

Lamentably, it doesn't work like that. Throughout most of the 1990s overall rates of return, both on equities and bonds have been falling. It's our old friend deflation once more. Most life companies have desperately been trying to ignore this painful reality, digging into their free assets in an effort to keep bonuses high so as better to market their life policies. Then last year, there was a particularly big drop in returns on gilts, exacerbated by the removal of the

tax credit on equity dividends. The moment of truth has now arrived.

Defenders of this old fashioned, paternalistic way of saving say it doesn't really matter. Lower returns are merely a reflection of lower rates of inflation, and in real terms the punter will end up with just as much money as he was quoted in the 1980s, when it was assumed inflation would remain high.

What's more, the annual bonus, decided by actuaries on the basis of what they think fair and reasonable, is what makes with profits life assurance different from unit linked forms of saving. It may be that life companies are now being too conservative in their bonus policy. If this proves to be the case, it will be reflected in more generous terminal bonuses when policies mature. Over the life time of the policy, the penalties and troughs are ironed out.

As even the industry's most die hard supporters concede, however, at a time when bonuses are being cut, it is hard to make people understand these merits. There will always be a sizeable market for profit life assurance, but the latest round of bonus cuts will do nothing to enhance the already dented reputation of this opaque and sometimes fuddy duddy old industry.

## Get a move on Margaret Beckett

While the Government dithers about the future shape of the electricity industry events across the Atlantic look like forcing

the issue. Just before Christmas two of the biggest US power groups, American Electric Power (AEP) and Central and South West (CSW) revealed £4bn merger plans. Unfortunately for officials at the Department of Trade and Industry, who are already busy grappling with the review of utility regulation, the US deal also threatens to bring about the first merger of British regional electricity companies (RECs). AEP owns 50 per cent of Yorkshire Electricity, while CSW owns Second Board, one of the earliest REC takeovers.

Though the merged American parent companies could obviously dispose of one or other of these British interests if that's what regulators demanded, they would certainly like to keep both of them and pool their resources. If this were allowed it would kick-start a host of other REC mergers, predicted for so long by industry insiders but resisted by the industry regulator, Stephen Littlechild at Offer.

All in all, the whole thing looks like a pretty unwelcome Christmas present for the DTI, which is already under intense pressure from Ed Wallis at PowerGen to let generators buy RECs. With pressure now mounting from the US, it is time for the government to make some difficult decisions. The sooner the DTI outlines its vision for the industry the better for all. The industry will be better able to judge whether consolidation makes commercial sense and regulators will be better placed to decide whether customers would be harmed by it. Get a move on Margaret Beckett.

## City predicts no early move on rates despite service sector boom

**As the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee started its first meeting of the new year yesterday, a new survey showed one part of the economy, services, is still booming. But City experts stuck to the view that the Bank would save the next rise in interest rates until February. Diane Coyle, Economics Editor, reports.**

In sharp contrast to the subdued state of manufacturing, the service industries continued to boom last month. Output and orders were up, as were employment and prices charged, and the expansion would have been even faster but for chronic shortages of skilled labour.

The activity index for services reported by the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply rose slightly to 57.6 from 57.5 in November. It pointed to a pace of growth less than the heights reached during the summer but still very robust.

The results came as a bit of a surprise to economists, who generally expect the economy to show pronounced signs of a slowdown before long. The survey came as a reminder that the economic picture is very mixed.

Even so, the signs of strength in the service industries are not expected to persuade the Monetary Policy Committee to raise the cost of borrowing today, at the end of its two-day meeting. On the other hand, the Bank is thought likely to make that move next month unless official figures signal meanwhile that a decisive slowdown in growth is under way.

Stephen Lewis, chief econ-

omist at Monument Derivatives, said: "Evidence that the UK economy is already slowing is far from conclusive." He predicted the Bank would stick to its "better safe than sorry" view, and increase interest rates in February from the current level of 7.25 per cent.

The 500 companies surveyed by the CIPS said new business had increased strongly from 58.0 in November to 60.9, the biggest jump since May, with the strongest growth in business services. Their backlog of unfinished work increased for the third month running.

Employment in services climbed for the 18th consecutive month as firms tried to increase their capacity to meet the demand. The report commented: "Firms widely reported skill shortages as a constraint to further expanding capacity."

Not surprisingly, the pressure on wages and salaries, also up for the 18th month in

succession, sent prices charged to customers higher too. The average prices index rose from 50 - a level indicating as many price cuts as increases - to 53.1. David Hillier, an economist at Barclays Capital, said the fact that businesses in the sector were passing on their increased costs was the most important feature of the survey. He said: "The inflation numbers will slip away from the Bank over the next few months."

Another natural result was that the respondents reported a big improvement in their optimism about future business.

More than two-thirds said they expected their level of business to increase during the next 12 months, while only 6 per cent expected growth to slow.

Peter Thomson, director general of the CIPS, said: "Growth in the service sector still remains strong enough to generate concerns over capacity constraints."

Even so, the survey shows that

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## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY ANDREW YATES

### IT euphoria is unlikely to last

December was a great month for information technology (IT) stocks. When the Stock Exchange announced plans to give Britain's booming IT sector its own index, investors piled in. In five weeks shares in three of the sector's largest constituents - Sema, CMG and Logica - have all risen by more than 15 per cent.

This euphoria looks unlikely to last. After all, the rise is down to investors adjusting their holdings to the sector. Currently a subdivision of the catch-all Support Services group, IT stocks will have their own sector once their combined value is large enough - probably at the end of this year. That means institutional investors need an exposure to the stocks, and judging by the recent scramble most were horribly underweight. The largest, most liquid stocks have enjoyed the biggest rises.

But valuations are looking stretched. CMG currently trades on a multiple of 36 times 1998 earnings, while Sema gets a multiple of 34. FI Group, buoyed by its recent Indian acquisition, is awarded an even more fancy rating. Even taking into account phenomenal growth fuelled by the millennium bomb and the introduction of a single currency, this looks overdone. The problem is that IT consultancies' growth is limited by how much staff they can bring in, and recruitment is getting desperate. Schemes to guarantee anyone who passes a degree course a job, or to recruit unskilled workers and train them, may plug the gap for a while. Sooner or later, however, firms will have to start delaying contracts because they can't get the staff. If anything, these pressures will be worse this year than last summer, when staff shortages prompted Logica to issue a profit warning.

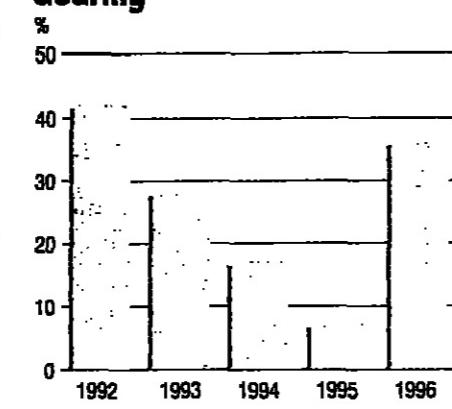
Perhaps the software companies like Misys, Sage and Micro Focus offer better value? True, ratings are marginally more modest and growth not so vulnerable to staff factors. Even so, p/e multiples in the mid-20s hardly offer much scope for outperformance. Bargain-hunting investors may prefer to sniff out some of the sector's

### AG Barr: At a glance

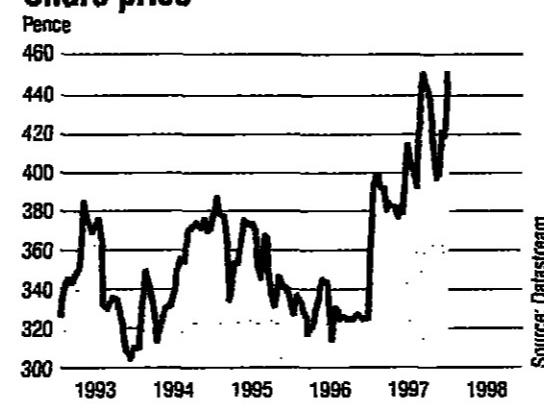
Market value: £88.2m, share price 451p (+12.5p)

Five-year record	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Turnover (£m)	87.9	88.0	101.2	103.1	110.3
Pre-tax profits (£m)	4.1	6.6	4.6	5.0	10.8
Earnings per share (p)	15.5	23.8	15.3	18.4	38.5
Dividends per share (p)	6.5	7.8	8.2	8.65	11

### Gearing



### Share price



forecast of £11.3m, the shares trade on a forward rating of 11. AG Barr remains a minnow in a market dominated by giants but at these levels the shares look decent value.

### Scope for growth at Gartland

Tony Gartland, the chairman, and his management team which built up FKI, the engineer, have created another profitable niche at Gartland Whalley & Barker by taking big stakes in small companies and building them up for flotation or sale. The company reported another 6 per cent increase in pre-tax profit to £20.7m in the year to the end of October.

However, the figures failed to please the market. Almost half the profit last year came from the disposal of Quadratronic, which makes coin counting equipment, and the flotation of Aquarius, the bathrooms and furniture group, both of which took place in the first half of the year. Profits in the second six months were disappointing, falling 12 per cent to £5m, causing the shares to fall 3.5p to 119p yesterday.

That reaction seems harsh. There is still scope for strong growth, in the UK and especially the US. This year Mr Gartland is predicting 15 acquisitions, two floatations including the recruitment business, Quantic, and the probable sale of Independent Parts Group, the quoted motor parts distributor, now a £3m business in which GWB has a 27 per cent stake. The new smaller company division, Crossley House Ventures, also announced its first acquisition yesterday, paying £3.6m in cash and shares for Vatre Terracotta.

The key to AG Barr's longer term success is its invasion of the English market. Its Iro-Bru brand has a huge market share in Scotland but is only just starting to make progress south of the border. Another potential problem is the recent decision by Pernod-Ricard to sell Orangina to Coca-Cola. However, as AG Barr has a franchise agreement to bottle and distribute the brand in Britain until December 2002 this issue is five years away.

On Greig Middleton's 15-month and sugar prices are still low and the company feels there is scope for more efficiency gains at the new plant as it beds down. It wasn't just a cost story. UK sales of AG Barr's own brands rose 7.5 per cent, although sales growth has slowed in recent weeks. The key to AG Barr's success is its ability to make progress south of the border. There are risks. Profits are lumpy and the group's success hinges on its deal-making ability. A stock market downturn could create bargains but make it difficult to dispose of assets harder to generate. Analysts forecast pre-tax profits of £22.1m, putting the shares on a prospective p/e of just 6. With management owning most of the company stock it can be difficult to come buy, but if you can get hold of them, the shares are worth a punt.

### Car sales rise to give third best year on record

Car sales rose by 7.2 per cent to 2.17 million during 1997, the third best year on record, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders confirmed yesterday. During December registrations rose by 8.3 per cent, to 84,634, though the share of the market taken by British made cars during the month slumped from 42 per cent to 35 per cent. It meant that imports accounted for 66 per cent of the market during 1997, a rise of 4 per cent on the previous year.

Ford took the top three sales slots last year, with the Fiesta in first place, though the group's market share dropped from 19.6 per cent to 18.3 per cent. Rover's market share was 10.01 per cent, down 1 per cent on 1996.

### Amstrad man joins BDB

British Digital Broadcasting (BDB), the digital terrestrial television joint venture between Carlton Communications and Granada Group, has appointed Amstrad's former commercial director, Anthony Sethill, as a director. BDB said Mr Sethill will have marketing and general management responsibilities as the venture moves towards launch in the autumn. Analysts said Mr Sethill was instrumental in the start-up of Amstrad's satellite television business across Europe and initiated the development of its digital set-top box technology.

### US finance houses ahead

Two leading US finance houses, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter and Lehman Brothers, have reported record fourth-quarter earnings, led by increasing profits from investment banking. Their shares declined, though, as US stocks dropped and analysts questioned if earnings would decline in the months ahead.

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, the biggest US securities firm in terms of equity capital, said earnings in the three months to November rose 79 per cent to a record \$810m, or \$1.33 a share. That exceeded analysts' average forecast of \$1.05 a fully diluted share. Lehman Brothers' fourth-quarter net income rose 46 per cent to \$185m, or \$1.30 a share, beating the average forecast of \$1.04 a share.

### Shell and Ernst link up

Shell, the oil giant, is to create 400 jobs in Glasgow in a joint venture with accountants Ernst & Young. The new business, called Tasco Europe, will offer specialist accountancy services to companies, though initially it will provide support solely for Shell's European operations. The Scottish Office said the new jobs, in the Glasgow area, would be created in the next three years.

### COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Gartland Whalley (F)	55.01m (58.83m)	20.6m (12.66m)	18.0p (11.07p)	2.4p (0.22p)
AG Barr (F)	110.3m (103.1m)	10.62m (5.04m)	36.55p (18.48p)	11.0p (8.65p)
Dowson Holdings (F)	21.56m (24.71m)	13.75m (9.30m)	14.2p (12.0p)	4.8p (4.0p)
Jersey Electricity (F)	21.56m (24.71m)	5.36m (4.66m)	2.80p (2.63p)	48.0p (43.0p)

(F) - Final \* EPS - Interim † EPS is pre-exceptional. \*Dividend to be paid as a FD

THE INDEPENDENT

INDEPENDENT  
ON SUNDAY

## Everyday in any one of six Conran restaurants

The Independent and Independent on Sunday in association with Terence Conran are delighted to offer readers the opportunity to enjoy lunch or early evening supper at six of London's top restaurants any day throughout January and February for £10

From Monday January 5th until Saturday February 28th, 6 Conran Restaurants are exclusively offering readers of The Independent and Independent on Sunday a two course lunch or early evening supper for just £10. In addition, readers can take advantage of further special offers throughout the evening at a number of the restaurants, details of which we shall publish over the course of the promotion.

**How to Book**  
To participate in the offer simply collect one token (tokens will be printed every day until Saturday February 28th) and then telephone the restaurant of your choice quoting the Independent offer. On your arrival at the restaurant you must present your token in order to qualify for the offer. Each token is valid for a complete table booking. The tokens will be valid for one week only, and will be dated accordingly. To continue to participate in the offer, simply collect a token from the week in which you wish to dine. Pre-booking is essential and all bookings are subject to availability.

A special discount is available on selected items in the Bluebird and Le Pont de la Tour shops on presentation of the token.

Terence Conran, widely recognised as the UK's leading restaurateur has played a significant role in changing the way we eat out. He has created 11 unique restaurants, and this year will open two more in London and one in Paris.

BLUEBIRD



BLUE PRINT CAFE



MOZZO



ZINC  
BAR+GRILL



Bluebird, 39 Old Bond Street, London, W1A 3BU. Tel: 0171 582 1000  
Bluebird is an Epicurean experience for lovers of food and drink a large restaurant and bar, together with a food market, chef shop, trattoria, cafe and luxurious dining club. Since opening last year, it has become a popular choice for those who want to enjoy good food and wine in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. The menu combines the best classic and contemporary flavours and techniques, and readers can enjoy dishes from the grill, rotisserie and wood-fired oven.

Lunch 12pm-3pm, Early evening supper 6pm - 7pm.

Blue Print Cafe, 10th Floor, One New Bond Street, London, WC1A 2LY. Tel: 0171 573 7031  
Blue Print Cafe is a favourite destination for many in the city. Admired for its spectacular view, good food and relaxed atmosphere, the restaurant looks out over the Thames and Tower Bridge. Blue Print's food is simple and light reflecting influences from around the globe and the menu changes frequently to take advantage of seasonal produce. New for 1998, Blue Print Cafe have introduced a set lunch menu which Independent readers can try at the special price of £10 for two courses. Also available early evening is a selection of great Spanish food and rustic wine for £10.  
Lunch 12noon - 3pm, Early evening supper 6pm - 7pm.

Le Pont de la Tour, 10th Floor, One New Bond Street, London, WC1A 2LY. Tel: 0171 405 8000  
The centrepiece of the Butler's Wharf Gastrodrome, Le Pont de la Tour overlooks the River Thames and is situated by one of the most famous bridges in the world - its namesake, Tower Bridge. The entire complex includes an elegant restaurant, lively bar & grill and series of splendid shops. At the Bar & Grill, the menu is a mix of regional French, Irish, British and Italian dishes in simple, generous style. For Independent readers the chef has created a new set menu (£10 for two courses or £14.50 for three courses) full of classic Bar & Grill dishes. Lunch 12pm-3pm, Early evening supper 6pm - 7pm.

Le Pont de la Tour, 10th Floor, One New Bond Street, London, WC1A 2LY. Tel: 0171 405 8000  
When we opened Mezzo in September 1995, we wanted to make people feel good, to add to the quality of life in London and to bring something completely different to Soho," says Terence Conran. Described as the largest restaurant in Europe, Mezzo is in fact a collection of complementary food related activities all gathered together under one enormous roof. Soho's only bakery, a patisserie, cafe and four bars, as well as two different restaurants - Mezzo and Mezzanine. Mezzo is reached by an impressive staircase which winds down through a dramatic double height space where the kitchens create a spectacular stage. The food is a fusion of east meets west, northern and southern hemispheres, where chef John Torode shows his passion for mixing ingredients with flair and innovation.  
Lunch 12pm - 3pm, Early evening supper 6pm-7pm.

Quaglinos, 16 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1RL. Tel: 0171 220 8000  
Celebrating its fifth birthday on February 14th this year, Quaglinos has been described as "the talk and taste of London, a place so polished and swanky it could only have come from Terence Conran." Vogue Entertaining Guide June/July 1993. Despite opening in the depths of the recession, this glamorous restaurant has been one of London's most successful establishments. Inspired by the great brasseries of Paris, the menu is predominantly a mix of British, French and Italian dishes.  
Lunch 12pm-3pm, Early evening supper 5.30pm-6.30pm.

Zinc Bar & Grill, 12 Regent Street, London, W1A 2LA. Tel: 0171 223 8899  
Zinc Bar & Grill is a lively and informal restaurant and bar, in the heart of London's West End. Just seconds away from the hustle and bustle of Regent Street, Zinc Bar & Grill provides an oasis from the West End frenzy, a place to meet friends for a quick drink, a light lunch or a relaxed dinner. The menu is simple and reasonably priced with the majority of dishes cooked on the grill and rotisserie, on view to restaurant customers. Exclusively at Zinc, readers will be able to enjoy three courses for just £10 between 12 noon and 7pm.

\*Closed from 6pm on Sunday  
Terms and conditions: To participate in the offer simply telephone the restaurant of your choice direct (from those listed above) to make your table reservation, identifying yourself as an Independent diner. On arrival at the restaurant you should present your correctly dated token to qualify for the promotion. Tokens are only valid for the dates printed. You must be at least 18 years old to participate in the promotion. Pre-booking is essential and all bookings are subject to availability. Diners will not be able to participate in the promotion if they have not made a prior reservation. The offer entitles the Independent reader to one side order per course, a complimentary meal discount at the Bluebird / Le Pont de la Tour shops applies to selected purchases in store. The menu may change from time to time during the course of the promotion. The cost of the meal includes VAT, service charge, drinks, coffee etc. A discretionary service charge of 12.5% will be added to each bill. The offer is exclusive to Independent readers and this offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer and is non-transferable. Conran Restaurants Ltd trading terms and conditions apply.

This voucher entitles the holder and all members of their booking to participate in The Independent/Conran Restaurants £10 meal offer.

THE INDEPENDENT INDEPENDENT  
Valid between Monday January 5th and Friday January 9th

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mineral gr  
MARKET REPORT  
GREEK PAIN

## Mineral groups suffer as metal prices take a pounding

### MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

*to give third record*

*n joins BDB*

*houses ahead*

*link up*

### Market Report



DEREK PAIN

After the oil spill it was the turn of mineral groups to take a pounding. RioTinto and Billiton were in the front line, reflecting the seemingly continuous slump in metal prices.

With little sign of any metals revival Rio fell a further 37p to 73p and Billiton 7.5p to 157p. Rio touched 1.10p last summer; Billiton was floated at 220p in July and subsequently hit 249p.

There were casualties among the smaller firms with Avocet Mining off 4p at 94p – it touched 34p last year – and Reunion, down from 138p, easing 6p to 85p.

Oils staged something of a revival although bearish comments continued to swirl around, with the investment house Henderson Crosthwaite cutting this year's crude price projection from \$19 a barrel to \$17.5. Positive noises from Lehman Brothers and Morgan Stanley lifted British Petroleum

13p to 77.8p. However Enterprise Oil, Lusmo and Shell remained under pressure.

In busy trading Footsie suffered its first fall of the year, off 40.3 points at 5,224.1. Supporting shares were more positive.

Asda was the best performing blue chip, rekindling hopes it still stalkers for a chance to strike at its hard-pressed rival Safeway. The shares rose 6.25p to 185.75p, a year's high, with Safeway managing a 3.5p gain to 345.5p.

Northern Rock, the building society turned bank, was knocked off its pedestal by comment it is the most expensive banking share in Europe and was 15 per cent overvalued. SBC Warburg offered to take profits advice.

Still, the setback was confined to its shareholders. Such a scheme could take six months to reach fruition and the yarn flowing around suggested an impatient bidder was seeking to short-cut the

process. Hambros put on 3p to 255.5p.

Chemicals attracted attention. Albright & Wilson gained 9.5p to 155.5p on takeover talk and Hickson International was given a 7p speculative boost to 73p. Settlement of Courtair's long-running dispute over Lyocell fibre left the shares 1.5p down at 290p.

General Electric Co fell 7.5p to 394.5p as it started its £300m share buy-back and ABN Amro

Hoare Govett was said to be keen on the shares. National Grid, 9p higher at 313p, reflected buying for the special dividend payment.

Henderson repeated its buy advice on Rank, off 3.5p to 344.5p; it has turned cautious on Northern Foods, down 1.5p to 266.5p.

Booker, the food group, continued to draw comfort from Warburg support, up 20p to 353.5p.

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From 84.5p last month Fibernet, a blue-sky digital network group, has risen to 143.5p. NatWest Securities contributed to the advance. The analyst Mike Williams said the shares had developed into talks although they were "of a very preliminary nature".

Zetters, the bingo and pool group, hardened 7p to 158.5p after admitting bid approaches had developed into talks although they were "of a very preliminary nature".

Verity, with a wafer-thin sound system, rose 3.75p to 73p; speculation intensified it was on the verge of clinching significant licensing deals. The group is taking part in a trade show at Los Angeles and, according to rumour, has received dozens of enquiries from hopeful licensees.

A bull trading statement from Electronic Boutique added 1.25p at 49.75p. The video retailer achieved 70 per cent sales growth over Christmas. But caution from Dawson, the newspaper distributor, shredded the price 39p to 176p.

Triplex Lloyd, the engineer, held at 27.25p as the bidder Doncaster, a US group, picked up a 6 per cent stake.

Zetters, the bingo and pool group, hardened 7p to 158.5p after admitting bid approaches had developed into talks although they were "of a very preliminary nature".

Warburg, the bank behind the heavily criticised 390p flotation, acquired 343,000 shares, lifting its stake to 4.33 per cent.

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### TAKING STOCK

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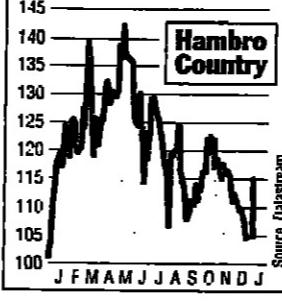
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Hopes Ilion's year's figures will be a shade firmer than indicated in November's profits warning lifted the shares 16.5p to 155p. The group said profits would be around £6.5m against hopes of £5m. Last spring the shares were more than 400p.

Black Arrow, the office furniture group, is thought to be trading well. The shares, up 11.5p, are riding at a 114p peak. In some quarters there is a sneaking suspicion the long rumoured take over bid could be near.

**Share spotlight**  
share price, pence



**Share Price Data**  
Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is the latest twelve months' declared gross dividend expressed as a percentage of the share price. The proceedings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding extraordinary items but including exceptional. Other details: Ex-right; E-sent; E-sold; S-suspended; P-Partly Paid; NP-not paid; VAP-Value Added Tax. GIC Prices are Bloomberg Generic.

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99p calls cost 30p per minute.  
(TVC Inc, London EC2A 4EP).

Gics index 103.07 +0.07

Seq volume 940m trades 62,45

Market Leaders: Top 20 volumes

at £100pm

Stock Vol Stock Vol Stock Vol Stock

Vodafone Grp 39.7m Self Transport 8.7m Lloyd TSB 5.4m Sidney

Baillie Gifford 26.0m Bt 8.0m BT 5.0m Hibernia

Deutsche Bk 22.8m Bt 6.0m Gen Elec 3.9m

Dogma 22.0m Bt 4.0m Bt 3.0m

Bt Airways 9.9m Kfm Globefone 0.4m Nat Grid Grp 0.4m

FTSE 100 Index hour by hour

14:00 547.7 Down 16.7

13:00 547.4 Up 0.3 5:00 557.4 Down 7.0

12:00 547.0 Down 9.4 16:00 558.2 Down 46.2

11:00 545.6 Down 18.8 13:00 545.6 Down 9.8 14:00 524.1 Down 40.3

Other Financial

Stock Vol Stock Vol Stock Vol Stock

ABERDEEN AC 78.00+0.00 15.8 202.00

AMERICAN EXCH 52.00+0.00 12.0 201.00

ARMSTRONG 41.50+0.00 1.0 10.00

ASPERGAR 32.00+0.00 2.0 10.00

ATLANTIC 22.00+0.00 1.0 10.00

AVON 22.00+0.00 1.0 10.00

BAC 22.00+0.00 1.0 10.00

BANCA POPULARE 22.00+0.00 1.0 10.00

## Don't take the slowdown story for granted just yet



**KEVIN GARDINER**  
ON REASONS  
TO BE CHEERFUL

The British forecasting fraternity is unanimous in predicting that the UK economy will slow in 1998. Pessimists expect growth of less than 2 per cent, which – given the likely strength of the economy as the year begins – implies near-recessionary conditions for much of the year.

Optimists, such as the Morgan Stanley team, look for growth of a little more than 3 per cent, a relatively modest deceleration from 1997's like 3.5 per cent. But all of the 34 frequent forecasters surveyed by Consensus Economics in early December expect growth to slow, as do less frequent forecasters such as the Treasury, the Bank of England, the OECD and the IMF.

Such uniformity is rare – and unsettling. Groucho Marx didn't want to belong to a club that would have him as a member, and in the realm of investment analysis, his instincts were just as sound. The economic risks in 1998 are surely not as one-sided as these collective forecasts suggest.

There are, of course, good, objective arguments for expecting the economy to slow in the year ahead. Export growth seems likely to wane as the strong pound and Asian retrenchment bite. The increases in mortgage rates will make themselves felt more fully; and disposable in-

come growth will also suffer from the absence of last year's tax cuts, and from the small tax increases announced in July's Budget. The building society windfalls must also eventually fade into the rear-view mirror.

But a solid argument is no guarantee of an accurate forecast: our understanding of the forces which drive the economy is much less precise than our carefully articulated models and spreadsheets. A resurgence in consumer confidence, for example, could yet blow the slowdown scenario out of the water. And there are indeed reasons for consumers to be cheerful.

There has been much talk of a reformed UK consumer, cowed by the twin threats of excessive past borrowing and job insecurity. But in reality, the consumer balance sheet is not fragile, in aggregate, but dauntingly strong, while job security may actually be improving.

Consumer debt rose five-fold between 1980 and 1990, more than twice as quickly as incomes. And at no time since 1990 has the amount of debt fallen: it has continued to rise, though a little less rapidly than income. However, even after mortgage rates have risen by a fifth in the last year, the aggregate interest bill is still running at levels, relative to incomes, roughly half as high as those which in 1990 pushed the economy into recession.

Moreover, much of the surge in borrowing during the 1980s was in effect a one-off response to the ending of credit and mortgage rationing, and to the sale of council houses: viewed in this context, and with the adjustment behind us, it looks less alarming.

Meanwhile, with the labour market tightening steadily, the incidence of unemployment is now just half what it was in 1993. And whereas in 1993 there were roughly eight potential applicants for each recorded job opening, now there are probably fewer than two. In some areas and occupations, indeed, employers are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit.

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ratio of aggregate net wealth to personal income has now almost recouped the ground lost since 1989 (see chart).

Indeed, if houses, life assurance and pension funds are excluded from the calculation in an attempt to define a "core" measure of net wealth, the consumer balance sheet has never been stronger. What the Bank of England described in the Eighties as a "glacier of liquidity" overhanging the economy is still largely unthawed: monetarists in particular should be sceptical at the neat consensus for 1998.

As hinted above, this balance sheet strength is not being neutralised by high real interest rates: the opportunity cost of spending today, rather than tomorrow, is anything rather low when judged against recent experience.

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## Whiteman targets European summit after mountain of disappointment

**Controversially left out of last year's World Championships, Anthony Whiteman plans to get his own back this year and help put British middle distance running back on the map.**

**Mike Rowbottom reports.**

It was absolutely typical of Anthony Whiteman's luck. His achievement in becoming the first British middle distance runner for seven years to win a global title coincided with another event which guaranteed him the minimum of attention.

On the day the 26-year-old from Isleworth won the 1500 metres gold medal at the World Student Games in Sicily, news of the death of Princess Diana was announced.

For a few hours, the British team were unsure whether they would compete or not, but they eventually went ahead. After striding away to an easy win, Whiteman, who is studying sports science at Brunel University, halted his lap of honour to how to the Union Jack as a mark of respect. What more could he do?

Although the timing turned

out to be unfortunate, the experience in Sicily was one which Whiteman, whose international career only began in earnest two years ago, hopes to turn to good advantage this year.

"I was very satisfied with the way I performed there," he said. "It was not so much the guys I raced against, who were maybe a level below those I had been meeting regularly on the European circuit."

"It was the fact that I dominated the whole thing from the beginning of the competition. It was always obvious that I had the chance to win comfortably, but I still had to deliver the victory. I regard it as a dress rehearsal for something bigger."

That something is likely to be the European Championships in Budapest towards the end of August. "In the European Championships you need to stamp your authority early on," he said. "It becomes a real war of psychology. If I can go into a championship and click into the kind of feeling I had at the World Student Games again it will give me a big advantage."

That assumes that Whiteman will be picked for the European Championships. But although he and his rival, John Mayock, are pre-eminent in the event domestically, his experience of

last year has taught him to take nothing for granted.

Whiteman's problems began at the Stockholm Grand Prix five days before Britain's world championship trials, when he was bitten on the ankle by a mosquito and suffered an unusually severe reaction after starting a course of antibiotics.

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"So there I was, an athlete not knowing what to do, and I was receiving no guidance from the national coach."

Whiteman returned to training and, a few days later, Matthew Yates, who finished third in the trials, was given the third place for Athens after achieving the qualification time with 3min 36.36sec. For Whiteman, who had already been under the qualifying mark four times by that point in the season, it was a shattering blow.

A week after the World Championships had ended, though, he gave Britain's selectors an indication of what they had missed when he became the fourth fastest Briton over 1500 metres behind Steve Cram, Seb Coe and Steve Ovett, running 3min 32.34sec in Monte Carlo behind the all-conquering Kenyan, Daniel Komen.

When he realised what he had done he broke down in tears. "After all that had happened, I just lost it," he said. "It was 10 minutes before I could speak. It was a surreal experience for me. With 120 metres to go I went past Noureddine Morceli and it was if everything was in slow motion."

"It was his highest point of achievement in a sport where the first marked family success was his mother Ann. She started run-

ning with him to make sure he did his training properly and has gone on to become one of Britain's leading veteran distance runners, finishing second in her age category at the New York Marathon."

Less than a week later, after he had made the pace for Halle Gebrselassie's unsuccessful attempt on the world 3,000 metres record in Brussels, Whiteman's roller-coaster career took another dip as he watched Mayock move ahead of him in the all-time domestic rankings with a time of 3:31.87. The Yorkshireman will clearly be one of his main rivals in Budapest, along with a strong Spanish contingent led by the 1992 Olympic champion, Fermín Cacho.

Whiteman, who won a European indoor silver medal in 1996 and reached the Olympic semi-final the same year, seems destined to struggle against the odds in his career. He is currently seeking a new shoe sponsor after being dropped by Nike, who, to put salt in the wound, have just taken on Mayock.

"It's nothing against John personally," Whiteman said. "But it acts as one more motivation for me."

The omens for Whiteman in Budapest look promising – but everything permitting.



Anthony Whiteman at the Durham International last Sunday. Photograph: Ted Ditchburn

### NEW FACES FOR '98

#### ANTHONY WHITEMAN

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"I asked him how much I needed to do to protect my place," Whiteman said. "I said if my position was in jeopardy I would run. He replied: 'It's not up to me to make a decision.'

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"I was very satisfied with the way I performed there," he said. "It was not so much the guys I raced against, who were maybe a level below those I had been meeting regularly on the European circuit."

That something is likely to be the European Championships in Budapest towards the end of August. "In the European Championships you need to stamp your authority early on," he said. "It becomes a real war of psychology. If I can go into a championship and click into the kind of feeling I had at the World Student Games again it will give me a big advantage."

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McKay claimed two of the three 1500 metres places automatically, he rang the national coach, Malcolm Arnold.

"I asked him how much I needed to do to protect my place," Whiteman said. "I said if my position was in jeopardy I would run. He replied: 'It's not up to me to make a decision.'

Although the timing turned

out to be unfortunate, the experience in Sicily was one which Whiteman, whose international career only began in earnest two years ago, hopes to turn to good advantage this year.

"I was very satisfied with the way I performed there," he said. "It was not so much the guys I raced against, who were maybe a level below those I had been meeting regularly on the European circuit."

That something is likely to be the European Championships in Budapest towards the end of August. "In the European Championships you need to stamp your authority early on," he said. "It becomes a real war of psychology. If I can go into a championship and click into the kind of feeling I had at the World Student Games again it will give me a big advantage."

That assumes that Whiteman will be picked for the European Championships. But although he and his rival, John Mayock, are pre-eminent in the event domestically, his experience of

last year has taught him to take nothing for granted.

Whiteman's problems began at the Stockholm Grand Prix five days before Britain's world championship trials, when he was bitten on the ankle by a mosquito and suffered an unusually severe reaction after starting a course of antibiotics.

Two days before the trials be-

gan he developed a flu-type virus and sought the advice of Britain's team doctor, Malcolm Brown, who told him not to run.

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## Boyd furious with referee for enforced break from Celtic campaign

Tom Boyd, the Celtic captain, yesterday blamed the referee Hugh Dallas for a three-match ban.

The Scotland international defender revelled in a more attacking role during last Friday's 2-0 Old Firm win against Rangers at Parkhead. But a late booking for what Dallas adjudged to be a foul on Paul Gascoigne took Boyd past the 16-point barrier.

That means that although he can play at Motherwell on Saturday, from the following Friday he begins a three-game

ban which takes in League meetings with Dundee United and Aberdeen as well as a Scottish Cup third-round match against Morton.

"There is not much I can do about the suspension. If referees decide to book you for perfectly fair challenges, there is not much you can do," he said. "It is a disappointing factor, but maybe gives me a bit of a rest and a chance to recharge my batteries which I never really got in the summer."

Brian Laudrup, the Rangers striker, offered a damning as-

essment of how he and his team slumped to their first Old Firm league defeat for almost three years. The Danish international was stunned at the way Rangers offered so little resistance to a resurgent Celtic.

Only goalkeeper Andy Goram was exempt from Laudrup's outspoken verdict on a match which could yet have a major bearing on whether Rangers achieve a record 10th consecutive title.

In the whole of the second half we failed to string three passes together and that is not acceptable. We had terrible problems in getting the ball forward and if you are not getting

any service it's impossible to create chances.

He said: "Celtic were by far the hungrier side last Friday and showed more desire than us to win the match. Derby matches are normally very competitive and there is not often a great deal of good football played, but that was no excuse for our performance last week."

Laudrup hoped his side can react positively to their derby setback and return to winning ways at home to Aberdeen on Saturday.

People say the Celtic defence was terrific, and they did play well, but we made it easy for them because our ball control and passing were so poor. It is vital that we address the problems which hindered us at Parkhead and contributed to our own downfall."

Laudrup admitted it was not the first occasion Celtic have got the better of their Glasgow rivals in recent times. The 28-year-old conceded he sensed it was only a matter of time before

the Bhoys would prove themselves men again and end a run of 10 games without a win in the fixture.

He added: "In the last couple of years we have not played well at Parkhead at times, but we have still come away with the points. However this time we did not get away with it. We played badly and certainly deserved to get beaten."

"People have to be broken some time and I would definitely rather lose to Celtic now than in our last meeting in April. Hopefully we can stay in there until the end of the season. It will be tough but we have done it in the past."

But Laudrup's openness did not extend to putting a close to the speculation about his plans at the end of the season when his present deal expires.

"I have a very difficult decision to make and I will decide where my future rests sometime in March or April," he said. "I will see out my current contract with Rangers and hopefully help them to win 10 in a row after that who knows what might happen."

**Will Carling stay or will he go? A nation yawns**

It used to be quite simple, even for rugby players. When the time came for an honoured practitioner of the 15-man code to call it a day, he would stride purposefully from pitch to bar, order himself a large one and state his intentions, loud and clear and with great good humour.

"That's it, finished," said Gareth Chilcott, the comically spherical Bath and England prop, after his final appearance four years ago. "I think I'll have a last quiet pint... and about 17 noisy ones."

Since when, things appear to have grown more complicated. Whatever the reasons behind Will Carling's move to delay any announcement on his future for "another few days", his indecision is clearly final: either he genuinely cannot decide whether he wants to play again or he cannot decide on the best way to maximise his earnings from the announcement. Meanwhile, a nation yawns.

Yesterday, Carling's select coterie of friends and advisors let it be known that "senior players" had "pleaded" with Carling to put retirement on the back burner and soldier on, presumably for the good of the game. There was no word from the great man himself, of course – at times like this, he makes Greta Garbo look like Clive Anderson. No, rugby was suddenly scratching around in the political spin-doctor's world of hints and murmers, nods and winks, official denials and off-the-record briefings.

The situation has now descended into pure farce. Indeed, it may be the sport's most ludicrous episode since Carling coined his "57 old farts" phrase before the 1995 World Cup – an event that left English rugby gobsmacked, not so much because of the national captain's lack of discretion but because his words were not sold exclusively to one of the tabloid newspapers he purports to despise so much.

Carling was big news in his heyday and rightly so, for he was a formidable centre threequarter and indisputably successful as an England captain who did more than most to transform a cauldron of a minority sport into something altogether more glamorous and universal.

But that heyday has come and gone. It may be pointless to use the "all things must pass" argument to this particular non-passing rugby legend, but an early end to the amateur dramatics would be much appreciated.

– Chris Hewett

## Stevenage will resist Magpies' switch pitch

The Stevenage chairman, Victor Green, has promised to keep on fighting for the right to stage the club's fourth-round FA Cup tie with Newcastle at home. Newcastle yesterday launched an appeal with the Football Association to try to get the tie switched to St James' Park.

The Premiership club feels that the Vauxhall Conference club's Broadhall Way ground is not big enough to hold such a tie despite Stevenage putting in extra seating to raise the capacity from 6,600 to 8,000.

Representatives from the Magpies visited Stevenage early yesterday to inspect the ground and then had a meeting

with the local council to voice their concerns over safety issues. They now have to decide whether to continue the appeal, but Green is adamant that Stevenage will host the tie on Sunday 25 January.

He said: "The view that I have taken, as everybody knows, is that Newcastle's attitude is that of 'Big Brother'. They're trying to bash the now over the head in a David and Goliath situation but I have got a lot more stones in my sling, so I will keep fighting.

"We have shown them what we're going to do. They can't find any objections as far as I'm concerned with our plans. I get the

feeling, rightly or wrongly, that they're going to say the ground is not big enough to stage a game of the magnitude of us playing Newcastle. But as far as I am concerned the game will go ahead here because we want it to."

If the game is staged at Stevenage it will be shown live on Sky television, with a 4.30pm kick-off time. Television rights from the tie should net Stevenage around £150,000, thought to be one of the key factors in not switching the tie to St James' Park.

Swindon, Stevenage's victim last Saturday, have put eight players on the transfer list following their FA Cup defeat by the non-Leaguers. The manager, Steve McMahon, has handed free transfers to defenders Gary Elkins, Phil King and Frederic Darras while he wants a fee for Jason Drysdale.

The club has got to take a hard-line view and if any other players don't give me 100 per cent then they will also be on their way," McMahon said.

Ron Atkinson wants a second look at Hambourg's Polish centre-back Pawel Wojtala before pushing through a £2m move to Sheffield Wednesday. Atkinson was impressed by Wojtala when he played for Wednesday's reserves, but wants to see him against better opposition.

Milan, whose Liberian striker George Weah is out for two months, have made an offer to Marseilles for Fabrizio Ravanelli, proposing a player plus cash exchange for the former Middlesbrough striker.

– Phil Casey

## England counter German claim over World Cup

European football's governing body has no right to pick a single country to bid for the 2006 World Cup finals, England's campaign team said yesterday.

"Uefa does not have a role in the process," England's campaign director, Alec McGivern, said at the Football Expo '98 in Singapore, after Germany had said earlier in the day that both countries had agreed to let Uefa decide which of their rival bids would go forward. Only Fifa, who have predictably dismissed the idea that England and Germany could be allowed to share the final, can choose which country will host the World Cup.

"We're quite used to competing with Germany on the playing field," McGivern said.

"and we now find ourselves competing with them in the corridors of football power."

The European Union Commission said yesterday that it would thwart any attempt by Fifa to circumvent the 1995 Bosman court decision on player transfers. In Singapore on Tuesday, Fifa's secretary general, Sepp Blatter, said he would seek new strategies to restore some form of transfer fees in an attempt to reward poor clubs for nurturing new talent.

The EU Commission also said it would send a letter to Fifa warning its practice of licensing players' agents could contravene EU law, the first step in what could become another protracted battle.

– John Roberts reports from Doha.

## Royle may be waiting for Maine Road chance

Joe Royle has turned down an approach from Bradford City to become their new manager, leaving the way clear for him to go to Manchester City.

The former Everton manager was approached by Bradford before they completed the dismissal of Chris Kamara, but has rejected the chance.

Royle has already declined an invitation from the Irish Football Association to take charge of Northern Ireland –

because he wants a club job in England. Despite delays, Royle is still the clear favourite to replace Frank Clark at Maine Road. He is the man that the new City director, Dennis Tueart, wants to take charge.

Bradford are also facing disappointment in their quest to lure the Rangers and Scotland midfielder Stuart McCall back to the club, and Oldham's Neil Warnock, a close friend of the Bradford chairman Geoffrey

Richmond, emerged last night as the new name at the top of their wanted list.

The City chairman, Francis Lee, is insisting that he has no intention of selling Georgi Kinkladze "We've had no bid of £7m, and if we did we'd refuse it," he said. Lee was reacting to speculation that the Georgian playmaker had been the subject of an increased bid from Everton.

– Alan Nixon

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– Alan Nixon

## SPORTING DIGEST

### TENNIS

#### Athletics

Halle Gabrelase, the double Olympic champion, will compete in the Bupa Indoor Grand Prix in Birmingham next month. She will be joined in the men's race in under eight minutes, with joint British triple jump record holder Jonathan Edwards among the competitors at the Birmingham National Indoor Arena on 15 February.

**Basketball**

SHIELD SHIELD (First day of four): Bradford New Stars 76, Bristol 70; Leicester 76, Hull 70; LA Clippers 99,

Chicago 80; Boston 78; Dallas 92;

Denver 78; Phoenix 78; San Antonio 81; Sacramento 105; LA Clippers 99.

**Cricket**

SHIELD SHIELD (First day of four): Bradford New Stars 76, Bristol 70; Leicester 76, Hull 70; LA Clippers 99,

Chicago 80; Boston 78; Dallas 92;

Denver 78; Phoenix 78; San Antonio 81; Sacramento 105; LA Clippers 99.

**Equestrianism**

Asprey will be a major sponsor of the Royal Windsor Horse Show over the next four years. The Bond Street firm is to sponsor the International Driving Grand Prix (supported by Harrods) for the last 16 years as well as the grand prix for show jumping.

However, Borg says the money was also payment to have him take part in the Swedish Open in Baastad and the Stockholm Open, according to the newspaper Expressen.

With those appearances, the federation earned quite a few million kronor through me every year," the newspaper quoted him as saying.

"That's why it was so important for the federation... to have me in Baastad and play at home in Sweden.

"But now there is a little mistake appearing – that I would get paid just for appearing in the Davis Cup," Borg said, according to the newspaper.

The French middlester Stéphane Roche, who plays for Lyons, is training with Derby County this week.

**LOS REYES TOURNAMENT** (Barcelona)

Final: Canada 2, Peñiscola 2 (Canada won 5-4 on penalties).

**LOS REYES LATE RESULTS** (Barcelona)

Final: Canada 2, Peñiscola 2 (Canada won 5-4 on penalties).

**LOS REYES FINALS** (Barcelona)

Reading 4, Middlesbrough 1.

**LOS REYES** (Barcelona)

Final: Reading 2, Middlesbrough 1.

**LOS REYES** (Barcelona)

## CRICKET

# West Indies opt for Lara's leadership against England

Brian Lara, one of the most celebrated and controversial characters in international cricket, was named yesterday as captain of the West Indies for the series against England.

Craig Cozier reports from Bridgetown, Barbados.

Brian Lara was named West Indies' captain yesterday for the five Tests and five one-day internationals against England, starting 29 January. He acknowledged he was stepping into a role that is far from easy.

"It's a great honour, but it's a very tricky seat to be in at this moment in West Indies cricket," Lara said. "It is a challenging and exciting role. I'm looking forward to great things from myself and from my players."

The 28-year-old record-breaking batsman replaces Courtney Walsh, the fast bowler who led the West Indies in 17 Tests after succeeding Richie Richardson following the 1996 World Cup. The decision represented an about-turn by the West Indies Cricket Board, who

His 375 against England in

rejected the selectors' nomination of Lara as captain for the tours of Pakistan and Sharjah in November and December, retaining Walsh instead.

Support for Lara has been growing since the West Indies were soundly beaten in all three Tests in Pakistan under Walsh, a 36-year-old veteran of 96 Tests.

It was the first time the West Indies had lost every match of a Test series since 1928 in England. They also lost three one-day internationals to Sri Lanka, Pakistan and South Africa in the Golden Jubilee tournament in Pakistan and were defeated by England in the final of the Champions' Trophy in Sharjah.

Lara has been Walsh's deputy for the past four series against Australia, India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. When an injured Walsh missed the Barbados match against India last March, Lara led the West Indies to victory in his only Test as captain.

A stylish, stroke-playing left-hander, Lara holds the world records for both Test and first-class innings and is regarded as one of the finest batsmen of his time. He has scored 10 centuries in amassing 4,133 runs at an average of 51.66 in his 48 Tests.

His 375 against England in

the fifth Test in Antigua in 1994 eclipsed the record of 365 not out set by another West Indian left-hander, Sir Gary Sobers. Lara followed that six weeks later with an unbeaten 501 for Warwickshire against Durham in the County Championship.

Lara has been groomed for the captaincy since he was a teenager. He led the West Indies team to the first youth World Cup in Australia in 1988, was made the youngest captain of his native Trinidad and Tobago at 20 and led the West Indies A team to Zimbabwe at 21. He will return to Warwickshire in the summer as captain for the first time.

Lara's poor disciplinary record has probably delayed his promotion to Test captaincy. He has been fined or warned for disciplinary reasons four times in the past three years. Once he reportedly said he would retire at a stormy team meeting during the 1995 tour of England after a clash with his captain, Richardson. He was persuaded to change his mind, but was fined 10 per cent of his fee.

His most recent transgression came during the home series against Sri Lanka last June when he was fined for reporting late prior to the first Test.

## FOOTBALL

# Spurs sign Berti from Inter

Nicola Berti was reported to have moved from the Serie A leaders, Internazionale, to Tottenham Hotspur, according to a spokesman for the Italian club.

The spokesman would not reveal financial details of the deal, though it was reported that Inter did not receive a fee. Spurs will pay out the rest of Berti's contract, worth around £350,000 a year.

Berti, 30, had requested a transfer recently because of limited playing time this season, his

10th with the club. A member of the Italian team which reached the final of the 1994 World Cup, Berti has scored 41 goals in 312 games with the Milan club.

Spurs' English transfer target, Andy Hinchcliffe, is set to complete a £3m move to north London from Everton today.

The 28-year-old international has agreed terms, and will move subject to a medical.

On Tuesday the Hinchcliffe deal had looked under threat because the player had asked for

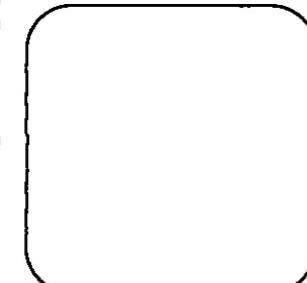
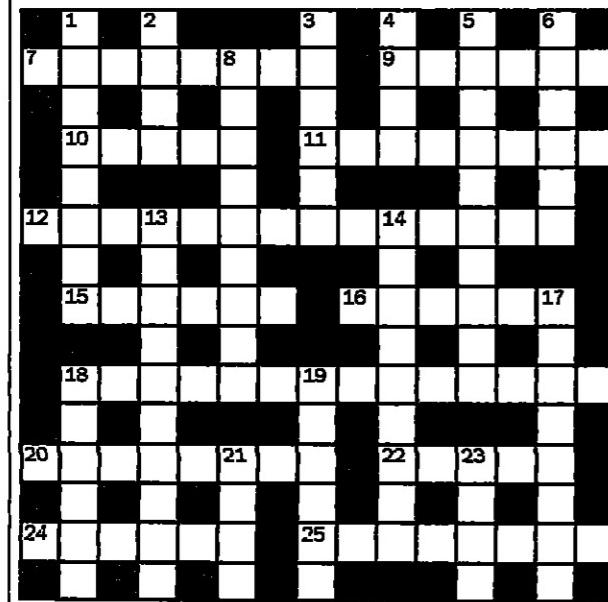
- Ian Rodgers

## THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 502. Thursday 8 January

By Mass

Wednesday's solution



### ACROSS

- 7 Writer makes cuts, reportedly approved (8)
- 9 Editor's inwardsly badgered, worn out (6)
- 10 Kentish fellow's cutting back branch growths (5)
- 11 Lean time acquiring the Parisian article of clothing (8)
- 12 Course additive, excluding chips etc (10.4)
- 13 Abolish disc in form of coin (6)
- 16 Shrub in plaza, leafing (6)
- 18 Sporting red braid, a fop is a colourful creature (4,2,8)
- 20 Very early bud split by frost, see (8)
- 22 A cat's not born with energy (5)
- 24 Think about new name for a flavour (6)
- 25 One placing an order in general? (8)
- DOWN
- 1 Ornate iron fret for border (8)
- 2 Cast (or threw) one out (4)
- 3 It's yours for life (6)
- 4 Dandy tie, from what we hear (4)
- 5 Checked most of ice, then fished (10)
- 6 Remove obstruction in river (6)

### DOWN

- 8 Reckless type from spree crashed into section of wall (9)
- 13 Ace? Mine's played in to prove a point (10)
- 14 Endless fog on winding road American finds risky (9)
- 17 Corresponded, in more senses than one (8)
- 18 Save Knight, finally, with Queen exchange (6)
- 19 Building's in a state with fabric full of holes (6)
- 21 Parting word evokes depression (4)
- 23 Playing up on right results in a corner (4)

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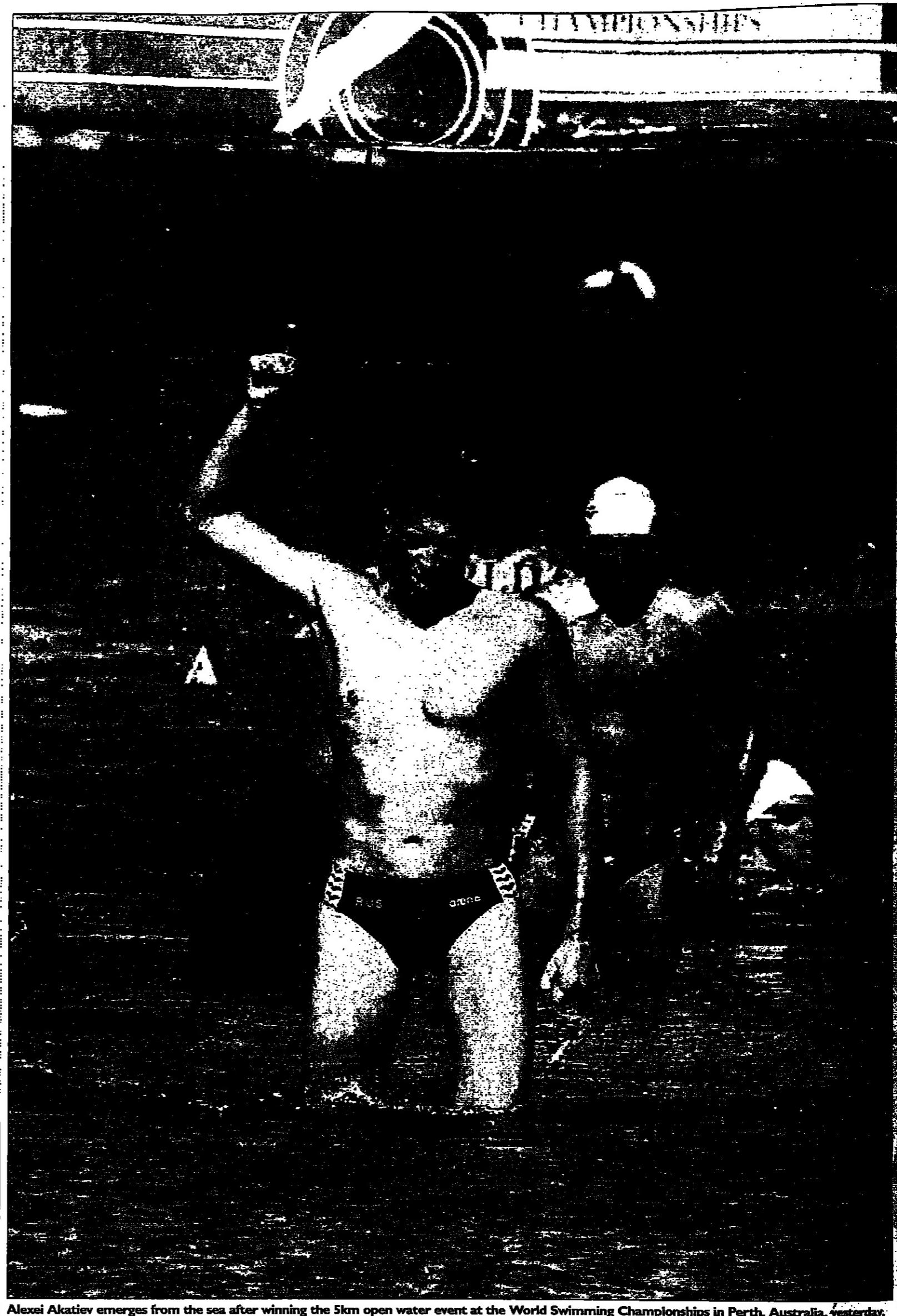
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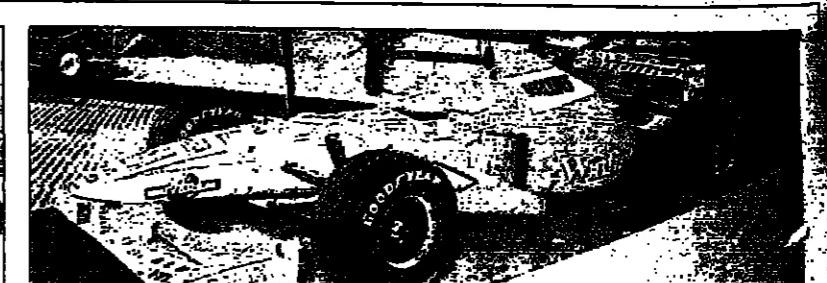
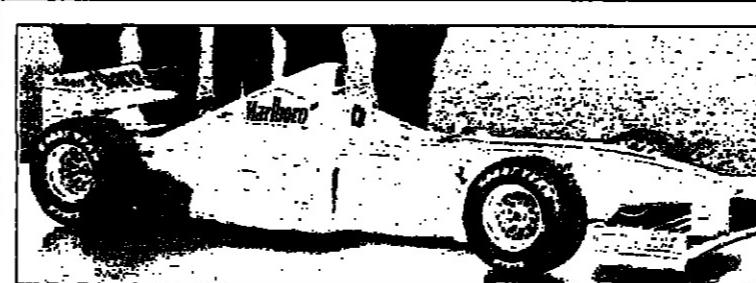
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Thursday 8 January 1998

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Alexei Akatov emerges from the sea after winning the 5km open water event at the World Swimming Championships in Perth, Australia, yesterday. The Russian overtook Australian teenager Ky Hurst about 400 metres from the finish to take the first gold medal of the event. Photograph: AP



Identity parade: The new-look Williams (right) will be taking on the new Ferrari at more than one level this season. Photographs: Allsport/Empics

Formula One's new twist on Henry Ford - any colour car you like, as long as it is red

Murray Walker may well be offering up a quiet word of thanks that McLaren changed their colours from red and white to silver last season following yesterday's unveiling of the new Ferrari and Williams grand prix cars.

Formula One's two main title contenders for the 1998-99 season have thrown off their robes to reveal in the red corner, the Prancing Horse, traditionally associated with a scarlet livery, while in the... er, red corner are Williams.

Tobacco sponsorship has again flexed its muscles and so has McLaren changed their colours from red and white to silver last season following yesterday's unveiling of the new Ferrari and Williams grand prix cars.

This is also the first time a car has been completely designed and built at Maranello, the work of their chief designer, Rory Byrne, and the technical director, Ross Brown, who took Michael Schumacher to two world championships at Benetton. The car will be pow-

ered by a brand new engine by Paolo Martinelli, who said that it was the first time in years that the engine and chassis department had worked hand in hand to the championship."

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The application of a little rouge will not be on the grand prix circuit. Motor sport's governing body has introduced several new measures in an attempt to slow cars down and protect drivers. Cars will be narrower, which affects the aerodynamics, and will run on grooved tyres, which give the car less grip. To keep

the grooves at the required depth, teams will have to use harder compound tyres, slowing the cars by about three seconds a lap at most circuits.

But the question everybody wanted answered in Maranello yesterday was whether Ferrari were bothered about Williams' new guise. "I'm sure that if you were to ask 1,000 F1 fans which was motor racing's red car, they would say Ferrari. The last colour in the world I'm scared of is red," Montezemolo said.

- Catherine Rife

ON

PAGE 250

Holiday  
Inn

Holiday  
Inn  
Garden Court

ALL YEAR ROUND  
SPECIAL BREAK OFFERS  
HOTELS ACROSS  
THE UK

دعا من الاعمال